

**AFRICAN-  
AMERICANS  
IN BOSTON:  
MORE THAN  
350  
YEARS**

**ROBERT C. HAYDEN**  
FOREWORD BY  
**JOYCE FERRIABOUGH**

BOSTON  
HISTORY

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# **African-Americans in Boston**

## **More Than 350 Years**



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# **African-Americans in Boston:**

## **More Than 350 Years**

*by* Robert C. Hayden

*Foreword by* Joyce Ferriabough



# *African-Americans in Boston: More Than 350 Years*

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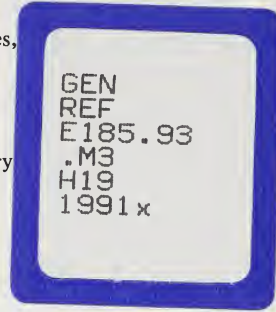
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*To African-American History Makers  
Past, Present, and Future*





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## Foreword

This book was born out of sheer frustration and an urgent necessity. There needed to be a lasting record that chronicled the important contributions of African-Americans in Boston in order to educate our young people of all races and, in particular, to inspire future generations of African-Americans.

In 1988 Mayor Raymond Flynn and Rosemarie Sansone, Director of the City's Office of Business & Cultural Development, gave me that opportunity when they appointed me director of the City of Boston's yearlong celebration of 350 Years of Black Presence.

As I began to develop programs to showcase the events, people, and places that helped shape African-American history in Boston, I expected that there would be volumes of information about the people who lived in Boston longer than any other ethnic group except, of course, the American Indians. After all, it was here in Boston that Crispus Attucks, a Black man, became the first American to be killed in a massacre which led to the Revolutionary War; here, that the famous 54th Regiment rallied to fight in the Civil War; here, where many of the nation's most prestigious Black leaders lived or worked to inspire others and the nation — people like Trotter, Wheatley, DuBois, Douglass, Stewart, Malcolm X, Edward Brooke, to name a few. Yet I was surprised and dismayed that there existed only bits and pieces of Boston's Black history, and that there was not a single publication that even attempted to chronicle this illustrious history. This book was long overdue.

As I began to lay the framework for the overall design of *African-Americans in Boston: More Than 350 Years*, one incident vividly replayed in my mind and convinced me how important and necessary this book will be for today's readers and for future generations. During the celebration of the 350th, I developed a program for the City's Parks and Recreation Department which used art and music to teach Black history to children and community groups who came to some of the parks in the African-American community. First a

storyteller would unfold tales of Black people, places, and events of importance to the development of Black history in Boston to youthful readers. Then the children would create a mural and “rap” song based upon what they had learned. One day at the Trotter Playground in Roxbury, I was working with the children from the Phillis Wheatley School and the Crispus Attucks Summer Camp. “How many of you know who Phillis Wheatley was?” I asked. One or two hands were raised. One young man ventured, “a very famous person?” “How many of you know anything about the person this playground was named after, William Monroe Trotter?” I asked. Silence. “OK,” I said, “here’s an easy one: who was Crispus Attucks?” More silence. I was horrified by how very little our children, our next generation of leaders, knew about their history and their leaders — at a time when African-American young people desperately need to know their past to encourage self-pride and promote self-esteem.

I know that this book will fill that void and become a valuable resource — not only for African-Americans throughout the state, but for anyone interested in learning the history of a great people. Surely thousands of children and their parents of all races and nationalities will gain a deeper understanding and feel a kinship with African-Americans in Boston whose proud heritage and accomplishments contributed to the betterment of all mankind.

I would like to express particular gratitude to Bank of Boston which funded my proposal for this book and is making gifts of *African-Americans in Boston* to middle and high school libraries throughout Boston and to public libraries throughout Massachusetts.

Joyce Ferriabough  
*Media & Political Strategist  
and Public Relations Specialist*

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## Introduction

“History is a clock that people use to tell their time of day. It is a compass they use to find themselves on the map of human geography. It tells them where they are, and what they are. Most important, an understanding of history tells [them] where they still must go, and what they still must be.”

### *Why Black History*

by John Henrik Clarke

African-American Scholar and Writer

In one sense, *African-Americans in Boston: More Than 350 Years* was written to fulfill the meaning of history as defined by one of my favorite historians. In another sense, this book reflects much of my own personal journey through Boston's African-American history during the past 20 years.

During my journey I have read more than 100 books and articles, collected and studied more than 200 photographs, conducted some 200 oral history interviews, studied early African-American newspapers, and found in public and private holdings old letters, documents, and artifacts related to the African-American experience in Boston. I wish you could have been on this journey with me; but since you could not, I have decided to share with you some of what I have learned so that you can take your own journey.

My preparation for this book actually began some 17 years ago in February 1974 with the publication of my first article on “Boston's Black History” in the *Bay State Banner*. For some eight years thereafter my weekly column appeared, and readers would ask, “When will you put all this valuable information into a book?” So it was that my scrapbook of more than 300 *Banner* articles provided the foundation on which to build this book. And the celebration of 350 years of Black presence in Boston provided the motivation and the project which led to publication of this book. During the three years since the celebration which marked the arrival of the first slaves here in 1638, I have expanded my earlier writing and

probed deeper in my research — and now the book is completed.

Much of what I discovered along my journey was buried in old books, magazines, and journals. Some of the history was hiding in old newspapers. Many photographs had been stored away, not lost but sleeping quietly, waiting for a new generation of eyes to bring the past into the present. Much of the history was carefully stored away in the memories of older residents who had been silently saying, “If only someone would ask — if only someone would listen.”

*African-Americans in Boston: More Than 350 Years* is designed as a convenient gathering of important facts about people, places, and events in Boston’s African life and history. The journey of the African-American men and women in Boston since 1638 is not just a record of individual efforts and accomplishments in the struggle for freedom, but the story of their institutions as well — their churches, schools, social service agencies, civil rights groups — and their involvement in arts, sports, law, politics, and business.

As you travel through the 350-plus years contained in this book, you will see that the contributions of individuals and organizations to community development have been wide-ranging, that there have been effective strategies and programs, bringing progress and positive changes in the community and throughout the city. You will find that African-Americans in Boston as far back as the mid-1800s protested against segregated and low quality schools.

You will learn that African-American women influenced virtually every area of human endeavor from earliest times — in law, politics, civil rights, the arts, and business. You will learn that in a city which is one of the medical capitals of the world, African-Americans have made revolutionary contributions to the development of medicine and health care; and while Boston had no Black elected officials in city or state government between 1896 and 1947 (over half a century), great gains have been made in electoral politics in the second half of the 20th century.

Boston has been the birthplace or home of significant 19th- and 20th-century leaders such as William Monroe Trotter in journalism, Reverend Michael Haynes and Minister Louis Farrakhan in religion, Prince Hall and Melnea Cass in community development, Maria Baldwin and Ruth Batson in education, Maria Stewart and Mel King in politics, Harry Elam in law, Roland Hayes and Elma Lewis in the arts, Lewis Latimer in the field of invention, Eliza Mahoney in nursing, and Wendell Norman Johnson and David Ramsey in the military.



Certainly no one publication including this one can hold all the significant people, organizations, and achievements of African-Americans in Boston. It is my hope that this book will spur additional research, books, films, and other works that will continue to catalogue and chronicle African-American history in Boston and New England which I have started with this publication.

For the story to be complete, you and others must be involved. You and others must continue to research, discover, and share information about the past. Then the travel through time, which I have started here for you, will continue from the past to the present — and into the future.

Enjoy your journey.

Robert C. Hayden  
*Author and Historian*



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# Community Development

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## 17th Century

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In 1638, eight years after the original settlement of Boston, a ship named *Desiré* arrived in Boston with the first African slaves. Built in Marblehead, the merchant vessel brought its cargo of cotton, tobacco, and slaves from Providence Island in the Bahamas.

### The First Africans

There is reason to believe that Black Africans were in the Boston area even earlier than 1638. John Josselyn, an early writer of New England history, visited Noddles Island in Boston harbor in 1637 and reported that he found in the possession of Samuel Maverick, three Negroes, two women and one man. Josselyn reported in his “Two Voyages to New England” that the women could not speak English and that the man seemed to have been a person of high rank in Africa.

### Africans in Boston before 1638?

The year 1644 was a momentous date in the history of the New England slave trade. Before that time Massachusetts merchants had occasionally brought in Black Africans from the West Indies; but in that year Boston traders imported slaves directly from Africa, when an association of businessmen sent three ships there “for gold dust and Negroes.”

### New England Slave Trade

Bostian Ken of Dorchester was perhaps the first Black landowner in Massachusetts. In 1656 he owned a house and lot in Dorchester, as well as more than “four acres of land planted in wheat.”

### First Black Landowner

### Prince Hall

In 1787 Prince Hall founded Boston's African Lodge Number 459, the first African Masonic Lodge in the country and the beginning of Black Masonry in the United States. The Lodge, currently located at 18 Washington Street in the Grove Hall section of Dorchester, is one of the few Masonic lodges — Black or white — to have its original royal charter, now preserved in a vault at State Street Bank.



Prince Hall

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Four Black men — Cato Howe, Plato Turner, Quamany Quash, and Prince Goodwin — founded a small community (Parting Ways) in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1790. While they had only Anglo-American materials in their environment, they brought their West African culture to the community. All had been slaves and had gained their freedom for their military performance in the American Revolution.	<b>Parting Ways Settlement</b>
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There were 766 African-Americans (4 percent of the population) counted in Boston in the first United States Census in 1790.	<b>African-Americans in 1790</b>
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In 1796 a group of Boston Blacks founded the African Society for Mutual Aid and Charity. The Society provided social-welfare services, financial relief, and job placement to its members and their families.	<b>African Society for Mutual Aid and Charity</b>
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<b>19th Century</b>	
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Between 1800 and 1900 most of Boston’s African-American residents lived in the West End, between Pinckney and Cambridge Streets and between Joy and Charles Streets — a neighborhood now called the north slope of Beacon Hill.	<b>Early Black Neighborhood</b>
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By 1800 some 1,100 Black Bostonians made up one of the largest free African-American communities in North America.	<b>Black Bostonians in 1800</b>
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In 19th-century Black Boston, centered on the north slope of Beacon Hill, the local barbershop was an important forum for the discussion of political ideas, the exchange of community information, and the posting of job openings. Peter Howard’s shop and John J. Smith’s barbershop, both at the foot of Beacon Hill, were meeting places for anti-slavery forces and stations of the Underground Railroad.	<b>Beacon Hill Barbershops</b>
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**African Meeting House**

In 1806 free Blacks in Boston, led by Cato Gardner, raised \$7,700 to enable Black craftsmen and laborers to build the African Meeting House. The Meeting House served as an anchor for the Black settlement on Beacon Hill throughout the 1800s. Until 1898 the Meeting House served as the home of the First African Baptist Church in Boston.

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**Black Population by 1890**

In 1820 the Black population of Boston was 1,690; in 1890 it was 8,125.

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**Juvenile Garrison  
Independent Society**

In the 1830s and 1840s Black Bostonians were providing for the education and intellectual stimulation of their youth. The Juvenile Garrison Independent Society, mostly teenagers, provided



Black history education for themselves and services for the community — sponsoring lectures, community fix-up and self-help activities, and anti-slavery rallies. There were several youth choirs, like the Garrison Juvenile Choir, which performed its first concert in 1833 at the African Baptist Church.

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**Juvenile Garrison  
Independent Society**

The African-American Female Intelligence Society was established in 1832 as both a literary and a mutual-aid group. The Society sponsored lectures “to become a moral force in the community” and offered health insurance for its members.

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**Female Intelligence Society**

In the early 1830s Jane Putnam and Susan Paul formed a temperance society. In 1833 the group was responsible for 114 African-Americans taking the “cold water pledge” denouncing liquor. Two years later in 1835 the New England Temperance Society of People of Color was formed.

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**Temperance Society**

The United Daughters of Zion, organized November 6, 1845, was the first women’s beneficial group — Black or white — in Boston.

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**United Daughters of Zion**

A group of Black Bostonians founded a local chapter of the Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization, in 1846.

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**Odd Fellows**

For 84 years (1860-1944), The Home for Aged Colored Women on Beacon Hill provided a residence and social services for hundreds of Boston’s African-American female elderly, many of them ex-slaves who had worked in Boston as domestics after the Civil War. The Rev. Leonard Grimes, minister of Twelfth Baptist Church, and James and Rebecca Clark were leading founders of the Home.

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**Home for Aged Colored  
Women**

The Boston Black population numbered 2,348 in 1865. By 1880 (after the Civil War), it had climbed to 5,873. Throughout the entire period from the Civil War to World War I, Boston had as large a proportion of African-American residents as New York, Chicago, Detroit, and Cleveland; the Black population represented 1.4 percent in 1870 and 2.2 percent by 1920.

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**Black Population 1880-1920**

<b>Black Neighborhoods 1890-1920</b>	Around 1890 Blacks began to depart from Beacon Hill and move into the South End. By 1920 the exodus from the Hill was complete.
<b>Woman's Era Club</b>	The Woman's Era Club was founded in 1892 by Josephine L. Ruffin to further the welfare of the "Negro race" generally and of "Negro women" in particular.
<b>National Federation of Afro-American Women</b>	The National Federation of Afro-American Women was founded at Boston's Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1895. The following year it united with the Washington National League to form the National Association of Colored Women.
<b>20th Century</b>	
<b>Richard Earle Pioneer Club</b>	The Richard Earle Pioneer Club served the Black railway workers in Boston during the first quarter of the century. Providing sleeping quarters, meals, and a place to relax for the Pullman porters, dining car waiters, and chefs during "off hours," The Pioneer Club was an important community institution for this class of Black workers.
<b>Black Literary Societies</b>	Two important Black literary societies were established shortly after the turn of the century: The Boston Literary and Historical Society, organized in 1901; the St. Mark Musical and Literary Union in 1902.
<b>Harriet Tubman House</b>	In 1904 the Harriet Tubman House was founded in Boston's South End neighborhood by six Black women who donated their time, resources, and even their property to establish a settlement house to "assist working girls (from the South) in charitable ways." Julia O. Henson (a personal friend of Harriet Tubman), Cornelia Robinson, Annie W. Young, Fannie R. Contine, Jestina A. Johnson, Sylvia Fern, and Hibernia Waddell opened the first Tubman House at 25-27 Holyoke Street as a lodging place for Black females who had recently migrated from the South, when many social institutions were closed to African-Americans in

Boston. Today, some 86 years later, The Harriet Tubman House of United South End Settlements, located on the corner of Columbus and Massachusetts Avenues, provides a wide range of social services to all needy people in the South End for the development of the community.

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From 1907 to the early 1970s the Robert Gould Shaw House served as a major social agency for Black people in Boston.

**Robert Gould Shaw House**

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By 1910 Boston's Black population was 13,500, and in 1940 it was only 23,000. Between 1940 and 1960 the Black population of Boston jumped to 63,000, and by 1980 it was approximately 120,000.

**Black Population  
1910-1980**

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The Knights of Pythias was a fraternal and benevolent order in Boston's small and growing Black community in lower Roxbury that provided effective health insurance and death benefits to widows and orphans. Anchored in its own building at the corner of Ruggles and Washington Streets, it helped maintain the family ties that knit the Black community together.

**Knights of Pythias**

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The League of Women for Community Service was founded in 1918 as a "comfort home" for World War I Black soldiers in Boston. Still operating today at 558 Massachusetts Avenue in Boston, this Black women's group has consistently provided charitable, cultural, and educational services. For more than 70 years it has served as a meeting place for Black historians, artists, and sororities, fraternities, and other civic groups.

**League of Women for  
Community Service**

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The Urban League of Boston was established in May 1919 and has been dedicated to the economic and social development of Boston's African-American people and neighborhoods for 70 years. In the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s especially, the Boston affiliate of the National Urban League was a significant force in gaining job opportunities for Blacks with major employers in Boston. In recent years it has sponsored a broad range of educational services, from day care to teen counseling and mentoring for Black youth.

**Urban League of Boston**

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**Early African-American  
Police Officers**

The first two African-Americans to serve as police officers in the Boston Police Department were Charles Montier and Joshua McClain, who were appointed on October 15, 1919. Their appointments were the result of vacancies during the Boston Police strike of 1919. Following these two officers, 33 more African-Americans were appointed between late 1919 and 1923.

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**Women's Service Club**

The Women's Service Club at 464 Massachusetts Avenue has been a community institution for over 70 years. In 1933 at the height of the Depression it pioneered a successful women's employment program; during World War II it provided services for Black soldiers. It spearheaded efforts to bring protection to Black domestic workers under the state labor laws. Today its elderly service program and food and clothing emergency program continue the tradition of civic responsibility.

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**Hattie B. Cooper Community  
Center**

The Hattie B. Cooper Community Center, started in the early 1920s by Union Methodist Church (now Union United Methodist Church) as a settlement house, is still "in business." Described in church conference minutes of 1922 as "a bee-hive of helpful activities among colored people of the South End," it continues to provide social services after nearly 70 years.

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**Black Neighborhoods  
1920-1960**

For the first half of the 20th century the entire South End and lower Roxbury community became the traditional and historic Black section of Boston. Until 1950 most Blacks resided in a narrow geographic strip bounded by Columbus Avenue and Washington Street and Dartmouth Street and what is now New Dudley Street. The movement of Black families to upper Roxbury and North Dorchester occurred in the 1940-1960 period.

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**Melnea Cass**

Melnea Cass (1896-1978), who fought vigorously and successfully for the improvement of services and resources for Boston's Black community for over 60 years, had a new thoroughfare named in her honor in 1981, Melnea Cass Boulevard in the lower Roxbury neighborhood of Boston.





Melnea Cass



E. Alice Taylor

From her arrival in Boston in 1927 until her death at age 94, E. Alice Taylor (1892-1986) served as a business woman, church leader, and Boston NAACP official, leaving a legend of 58 continuous years of community service. For 50 years she served as an officer and board member of the Boston branch of the NAACP. In 1950, when the NAACP's national convention was held in Boston, she walked the streets of the South End and lower Roxbury finding private homes to accommodate the 400 conventioners not welcome in Boston's hotels. She was the oldest living active member of the Boston NAACP at the time of her death in 1986.

### **Legendary NAACP Leader**

Maceo Harris, a 12-year-old student at the Sherman School in Roxbury, was the master of ceremonies for Boston's observance of Benjamin Franklin's birthday anniversary in 1932. The ceremony was conducted in front of Franklin's statue on the lawn at City Hall. Mayor James Curley said of young Harris — "In all my long experience I have never found any presiding officer with more ability or dignity than the distinguished master of ceremonies."

### **Young Master of Ceremonies**



Rev. Samuel Laviscount

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**Edward L. Cooper, Sr.**

In 1933 Edward L. Cooper, Sr., was the first African-American to be hired to manage a major food chain in Boston, the First National Store on Shawmut Avenue. From 1942-48 he was Deputy Secretary of the Urban League and served as Executive Secretary from 1948-54. From 1954-62 he served as the first Executive Director of Boston's NAACP. A co-founder of the Metropolitan Boston Chapter of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, he served as chapter president from 1981-1988.

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**St. Mark Social Center**

In 1934 under the late Rev. Samuel L. Laviscount, St. Mark Congregational Church established the first social service agency for children and youth in upper Roxbury. The center pioneered in youth development — “getting the boys off the street,” said the Reverend Laviscount. The St. Mark Social Center operated until the early 1960s, when the building was demolished as a result of urban renewal.





Lucy Mitchell



Julian Steele

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Lucy M. Mitchell became the first African-American elected to the Board of Directors of the Boston YWCA in 1941, where she served for seven years. Previously, in the mid-1930s she pioneered the development of a model nursery school at the Robert Gould Shaw House and led efforts to improve and license day-care centers. A leading educator in the early childhood education field, she was an early consultant to the now famous national Head Start Program.

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#### **Early Childhood Educator**

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Organized with 58 members from 25 different community youth groups and churches in 1936, the Boston Youth Council of NAACP held a mass meeting a year later protesting educational inequality in the Boston schools.

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#### **NAACP Youth Council**

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On May 1, 1936 the Robert Gould Shaw House bought Breezy Meadows Camp in Holliston, Massachusetts, which provided summer camping for Boston's Black children and youth until the mid-1960s.

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#### **Breezy Meadows Camp**

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Julian Steele, a Boston Latin School and Harvard graduate, as the director of the Robert Gould Shaw House in the 1930s, was a leader in the expansion of social, recreational, and educational programs for the youth of the South End and

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#### **Commissioner of Community Affairs**

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**Commissioner of Community  
Affairs**

lower Roxbury. From 1938-49 he directed the Armstrong-Hemingway Foundation. He served as Boston's NAACP president from 1945-48 and as president of the Urban League of Greater Boston. Later he served on the Massachusetts State Parole Board, as the State's first Commissioner of Community Affairs in 1965, and as Deputy Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Commerce.

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**Professional and Business  
Men's Club**

From its founding in 1946 by Black professional and business men of Boston until its closing in 1987, the Professional and Business Men's Club, also called the P&B, was a unique community institution at 542 Massachusetts Avenue. It was "a place where you could get to know 'something' or 'somebody' that could be of help to you, a place where you could have a good time socially, get professional and personal support through friendship and social exchange," said John Bynoe, the club's owner and director during its last 25 years. The P&B was a place where ideas were nourished which led to the creation of a number of community programs and agencies.

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**Freedom House**

Since 1949 Freedom House in Roxbury, founded by Muriel and Otto Snowden, has worked through bi-racial efforts to reduce barriers to education, employment, and housing opportunities for African-Americans in Boston. Growing from the "Upper Roxbury Community Project," started in the Snowdens' living room, this community-based institution today focuses on an array of educational programs for children, youth, college students, and adults.



John Bynoe at the P & B Club



Otto and Muriel Snowden



Robert Coard

In 1952 Madeline Kountze Dugger Kelly of Medford became the first Black woman to be named Massachusetts Mother of the Year.

**"Mother of the Year"**

Black migration from 1960 to the present continued into most of Dorchester and Mattapan. During the 1950-1990 period Black neighborhoods also developed in Jamaica Plain, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and the Allston section of Brighton.

**Black Neighborhoods  
1960-1990**

Since 1962, Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. (ABCD) has fostered community development in the city. For over 20 years Robert M. Coard has served as director, one of the longest continuous tenures for a community agency leader in the city of Boston. On the human side of urban renewal, ABCD has been a beacon for upward mobility for families and youth through education, job training, and encouragement of new social, economic, and educational institutions.

**Action for Boston  
Community Development**

The Roxbury Multi-Service Center (RMSC) got its beginning in 1964 as a three-year demonstration project, after Helen Y. Davis and Judge Harry J. Elam and other community leaders became alarmed by the large numbers of low-income people moving into Roxbury and Dorchester at a time

**Roxbury  
Multi-Service Center**

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**Roxbury  
Multi-Service Center**

when public and social support services were disappearing. Once a small pilot project funded by the Ford Foundation, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Boston Foundation, RMSC is over 25 years old and owns four buildings from which its programs operate: among them, youth development, adult and family services, a family housing shelter, and assessment and counseling which include housing assistance and crime prevention. Perhaps the greatest indicator of RMSC's contributions to community development is the fact that it was instrumental in the creation of La Alianza, an agency serving the Hispanic community, and the Quincy-Geneva Housing Corporation, which has already renovated several hundred units for low- and moderate-income residents.

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**Museum of  
Afro-American History**

The Museum of Afro-American History was established in Boston in 1964. Its leading founders were Dean Howard Thurman of Boston University and his wife Sue Bailey Thurman. The Museum was established "to advance knowledge, through historic examination," about the African-American presence in Boston and New England. The Museum's first curator and manager was J. Marcus Mitchell. Serving as director for more than 15 years, Byron Rushing, who currently serves as state representative, built a record of dynamic growth and development for the Museum. In 1987 the Museum found a permanent home when it reopened the doors of the oldest standing Black church in the nation — the African Meeting House, built in 1806 on Smith Court, Beacon Hill. Under the leadership of Ruth M. Batson and Henry Hampton in the late 1980s, the Museum has become a vibrant and growing center of African-American educational and cultural activity. Monica Fairbairn was appointed executive director in the fall of 1989.

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**Advocate for  
Community Development**

Charles "Chuck" Turner, executive director of the Center for Community Action, has been a community organizer, activist, and advocate for Boston's African-American community for over 20 years. He has a record of effectively organizing people to confront city and state agencies for jobs,



affordable housing, and equitable land use. In 1967 he organized Mothers for Adequate Welfare; in the late 1960s he led the Black United Front to gain adequate funding for community economic and educational development. Turner was a leading architect of the Boston Jobs Coalition whose efforts helped create the Boston Jobs for Boston Residents Ordinance, now in effect, guaranteeing a percentage of jobs for people of color and women on all city construction projects.

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**Advocate for  
Community Development**

In 1968 a group of neighbors from Dorchester formed Lena Park Associates to address the pressing housing needs that existed in the burgeoning Black neighborhoods of North Dorchester and Mattapan. The group quickly realized that it had more to do than just address the housing situation. Today the Lena Park Community Development Corporation, now in its 22nd year in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan, provides a range of programs: tutoring and academic advisement, career development and employment counseling, day care, young adult social development, family advocacy, and youth recreational activities, including a summer camp for children. Most recently Lena Park Development Corporation has rehabilitated a number of housing units throughout the community it serves.

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**Lena Park Associates**

Aswalos House, a satellite of Boston's YWCA at the corner of Maple and Seaver Streets in upper Roxbury, was opened in the Black community in 1968 and has continuously provided educational, social, and recreational services for young girls and women for over 20 years.

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**Aswalos House**



"Chuck" Turner

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**Roxbury Action Program**

The Roxbury Action Program (RAP), led by George Morrison and Lloyd King, was established in 1969 in the Highland Park section of Roxbury to renew a severely blighted neighborhood. During the past 20 years RAP has rehabilitated 260 units of housing for nearly 800 people and brought major physical improvements to the landscape.

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**Black Population in 1970**

In 1970, 51 percent of Boston's African-Americans had been born outside of Massachusetts and had migrated to the state, and most of the newcomers (29 percent of the entire Black population) were of southern origin.

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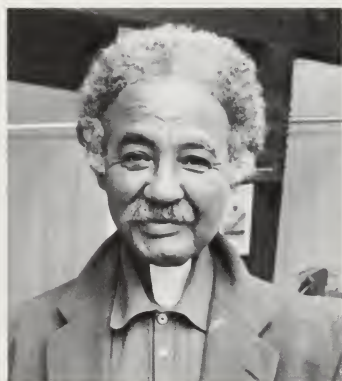
**Long Bay Management**

Since 1970 Long Bay Management, led by founder and president Kenneth Guscott, has built, renovated, and managed more than 1,000 housing units in Roxbury.

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**Successful Housing Development**

The Lower Roxbury Community Corporation under the leadership of Ralph D. Smith, between 1972 and 1980, developed housing for the elderly and low-income residents and townhouses with 570 housing units. Organized in 1966, LRCC was the first neighborhood group to initiate and develop housing in the country. Ralph D. Smith was named the American Society of Planning Officials (ASPO) Planner of the Year in 1974. The ASPO honored him "for leading and validating a neighborhood voice, for initiating plans and implementing techniques to upgrade the inner city environment, and for making the decision process work better," through the Lower Roxbury Community Corporation.



Ralph Smith

Five African-Americans of Boston have received the prestigious MacArthur Fellows award from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in Chicago: Elma Lewis (1981) for Arts Education; Robert Moses (1982) Philosophy and Education; Sara Lawrence Lightfoot (1984) Sociology of Education; Muriel Snowden (1987) Community Organization; and George Russell (1989) Jazz Composition and Theory. MacArthur Fellows receive financial awards to enhance their creative accomplishments.

**MacArthur Fellows**

In 1983 City Councilor Bruce C. Bolling introduced and sponsored a new and revolutionary concept to the Boston urban development scene. His parcel-to-parcel linkage plan, accepted by the Boston City Council and Boston Redevelopment Authority, requires developers of downtown commercial real estate to contribute funds for housing improvements in the city's depressed neighborhoods. The linkage concept, researched and fashioned by political strategist Joyce Ferriabough, has resulted in the leveraging of linkage monies for a number of projects to revitalize Boston's neighborhoods.

**Linkage to Neighborhood Growth**

The anti-drug program, Drop-A-Dime/Report-A-Crime, Inc., was founded in 1983 by Georgette Watson and Rev. Bruce Wall to combat the rampant drug trade, especially in the African-American communities. As executive director, Watson used a telephone hot-line approach for anonymous callers to inform police of drug trafficking "on the streets." The program and Mrs. Watson were hailed regionally and nationally for taking on the drug problem in Boston's neighborhoods.

**Drop-A-Dime**

Doris Bunte, a tenants' rights activist during the 1960s and 1970s, and a former Housing Development tenant, became director of the Boston Housing Authority in 1984.

**Housing Authority Director**

Anna Faith Jones became the first African-American woman to head a major American foundation when she was appointed director of The Boston Foundation in 1985. Since her appointment The Boston Foundation has recommitted itself to aid for the disadvantaged.

**Major Foundation Director**

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**Organization for a  
New Equality**

The Organization for a New Equality (O.N.E.) was founded in 1985 by Rev. Charles Stith, Senior Pastor of Union United Methodist Church. O.N.E. is a local and national vehicle for mounting strategies to develop economic opportunity for "people of color" and racial harmony in cities and on college campuses across the country. In 1990, after negotiating with the Massachusetts Bankers Association (representing over 100 banks), Rev. Stith, President of O.N.E., led the establishment of a multimillion-dollar statewide program to create revolving loan funds to increase affordable housing, improve access to mortgages and banking services, and provide capital to entrepreneurs in low-income and minority neighborhoods that have been historically underserved by the banks.

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**Martha's Vineyard**

For more than 100 years the island of Martha's Vineyard (seven miles off the southeast coast of Massachusetts) has been an important summer-time haven for Black Bostonians. In the late 1800s Blacks first came to the island to work for whites and some earned enough money to gain small summer vacation homes for themselves. Shearer Cottage was opened in Oak Bluffs at the turn of the century — the island's first establishment that allowed Blacks to rent. Since the 1950s the island has attracted Blacks each summer from the entire East Coast and Washington, D.C. Several generations of families, both famous and ordinary, as summer vacationers and year-round residents have turned the once-poor village of Oak Bluffs into a Black mecca for educational, cultural, civic, and social tradition for Blacks of all backgrounds. The Martha's Vineyard NAACP, The Cottagers (a Black women's civic and charitable group), and the annual Oak Bluffs Labor Day weekend tennis tournament has become institutions in this important colony for Black Bostonians.





African-Americans at Martha's Vineyard in 1875

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## Civil Rights

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### 17th Century

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<b>Slavery Law in Massachusetts</b>	Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth were the first colonies to authorize slavery through legislation as part of the <i>1641 Body of Liberties</i> , a mere three years after the first Blacks arrived in Boston.
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### 18th Century

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<b>First Anti-Slavery Treatise</b>	"The Selling of Joseph," a sermon by white clergyman Samuel Sewall, first published in Boston in 1700, became the first public anti-slavery treatise. Liberty, he wrote, being "The real value unto life; none ought to part with it themselves or deprive others of it but upon mature consideration." A strong anti-slavery treatise for its time, Sewall's writing provoked slaves in Boston to mount a determined effort to obtain their freedom.
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<b>Black Population 1708-1752</b>	Throughout the colonial era Boston contained the largest number of Blacks in Massachusetts. The flourishing slave trade and increased birthrate expanded the Black population from 400 in 1708 to 1,374 in 1742. In 1708 there were 33 free Blacks in Boston. In 1742 one-third of all Blacks in Massachusetts lived in Boston. In 1752 Blacks numbered 1,541, one-tenth of the population.
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<b>Boston Common "Out of Bounds"</b>	In 1742, when whites feared uprisings against oppression from the heavy concentration of slaves in Boston, the Boston Common was "out of bounds" for Blacks and American Indians. The Black community of the city fought this restriction, but it was not until July 4, 1836 that they were allowed to use the Common with whites.
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Anti-slavery meeting on the Boston Common

The year 1773 saw increasing agitation among Blacks in Boston and Massachusetts for an end to slavery. On January 6, then in April, and again in May, they sent petitions first to royal Governor General Thomas Gage and next to the Massachusetts legislature, denouncing slavery as destructive of natural rights and seeking the right to earn money to purchase their freedom. Finally, in 1780 slavery was abolished in Massachusetts when a Declaration of Rights was added to the state constitution. In 1781, as a result of a court decision in the case *Commonwealth v. Jennison*, slavery in the state was declared unconstitutional.

### Slavery Abolished in Massachusetts



African-Americans on the Boston Common



# **CAUTION!!**

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## **COLORED PEOPLE**

### **OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,**

You are hereby respectfully **CAUTIONED** and  
advised, to avoid conversing with the  
**Watchmen and Police Officers**  
of Boston,

For since the recent **ORDER OF THE MAYOR &  
ALDERMEN**, they are empowered to act as

## **KIDNAPPERS**

**AND**

## **Slave Catchers,**

And they have already been actually employed in  
**KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING  
SLAVES.** Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY**,  
and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun*  
them in every possible manner, as so many **HOUNDS**  
on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

**Keep a Sharp Look Out for  
KIDNAPPERS, and have  
TOP EYE open.**

**APRIL 24, 1851.**

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## 19th Century

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When a group of Black Bostonians founded the Massachusetts General Colored Association in 1826 to fight for an end to slavery, they became Boston's primary abolition organization.

### First Abolitionist Group

With his publication of *Appeal* to the Colored Citizens of the World, urging slaves to fight for their freedom, David Walker created an influential piece of anti-slavery literature that helped shape the posture of Black militancy of the 1830s and beyond.

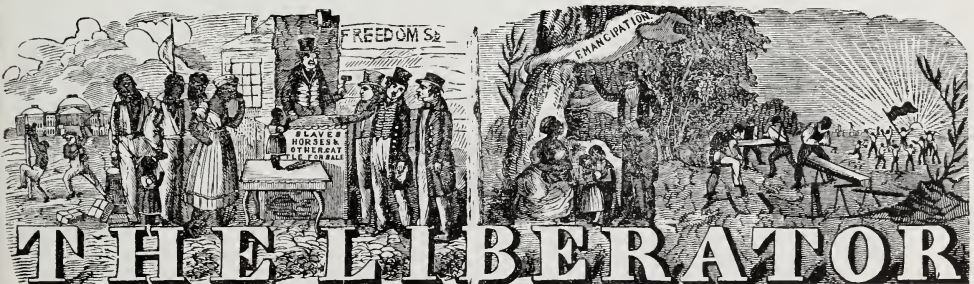
### David Walker's *Appeal*

Hailed as America's first Black political writer, Maria W. Stewart, an early Boston activist, championed women's rights and Black self-improvement in a series of speeches and essays written between 1831 and 1833. She was probably the first Black American to lecture publicly in defense of women's rights. Speaking from the pulpit of Boston's African Meeting House, she was a clear forerunner to generations of the most influential Black activists.

### Early Political Writer

While *The Liberator* newspaper (1831-1869), founded by the militant white abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, was an anti-slavery organ, it was also a journal for Black Americans throughout Boston and the East. The paper provided a network with its listing of death notices and social events, discussion of politics, and advertising of employment/housing opportunities. *The Liberator* even provided information on the types and degree of discrimination a Black traveler might expect to encounter.

### *The Liberator*



*Liberator* masthead

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**New England  
Anti-Slavery Society**

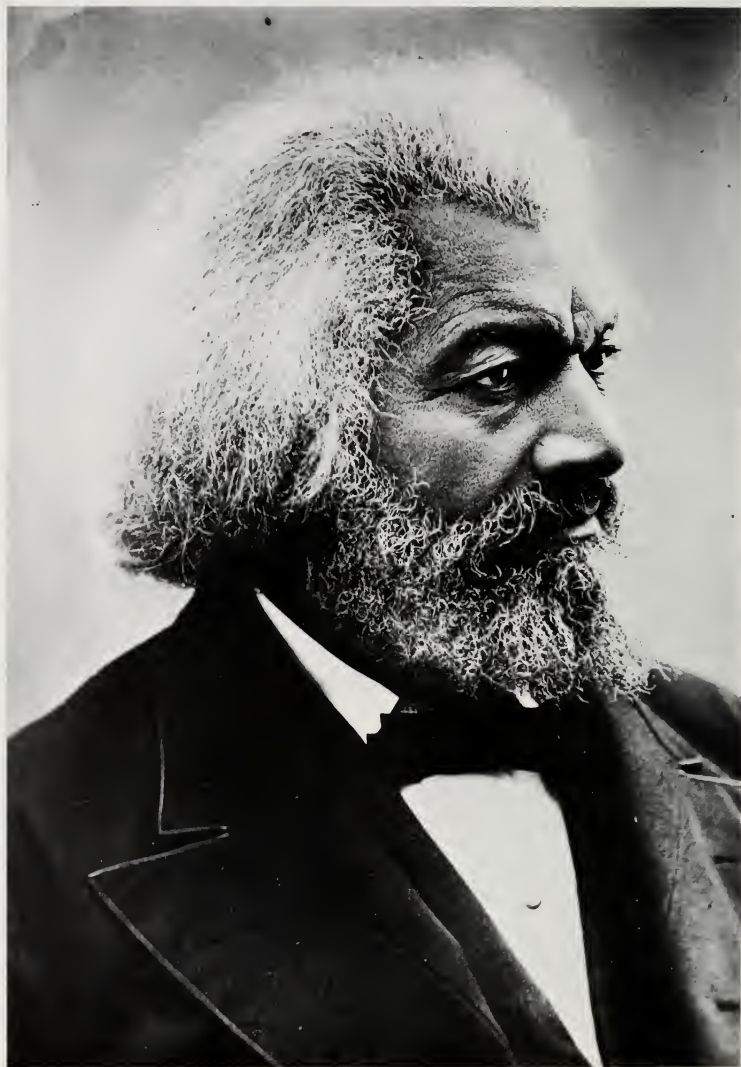
The New England Anti-Slavery Society, successor to the Massachusetts General Colored Association, was founded at Boston's African Meeting House in 1832, becoming the leading, most eloquent, most effective voice in the battle against slavery.

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**Female Anti-Slavery Leader**

Susan Paul of Boston, daughter of Rev. Thomas Paul, served as a vice president of the Second Annual Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women in Philadelphia in 1839.

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Frederick Douglass



Frederick Douglass gave his first anti-slavery speech on Nantucket Island in August 1841, a speech which propelled him into the anti-slavery cause. He soon found his way to Boston where he became a leader of the movement.

**Frederick Douglass**

Charles Lenox Remond (1810-1873) was perhaps the boldest agent of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and possibly the most eloquent of the Black abolitionists of antebellum Boston. He had a national and international reputation as an anti-slavery leader, and was appointed as an American delegate to the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London in 1840. In 1842 he was the first of his race to address the Massachusetts House of Representatives, protesting segregated railroad accommodations in the state.

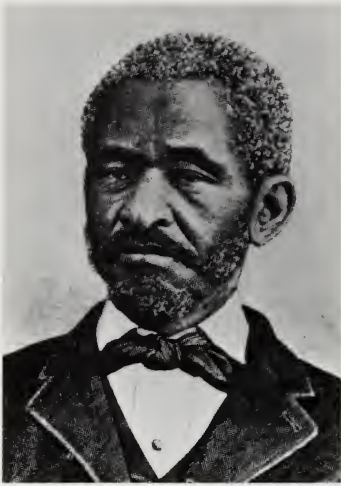
**Charles Lenox Remond**

Born in Salem, Sarah Remond (1826-1894) was a leading organizer of women for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society in the 1840s and 1850s. Protesting segregation in churches, theatres, and other public places, she won a civil court suit after being ejected from the Howard Athenaeum in Boston, which had advertised that for all performances colored people would be admitted only to the gallery.

**Women's Anti-Slavery  
Organizer**

Charles Remond





Lewis Hayden

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### **Boston's Underground Railroad**

In the decades prior to the Civil War, Blacks in Boston were prominent in developing and operating one of the principal stations of the "Underground Railroad" that helped escaped slaves from the South find refuge in the North or in Canada. From his home at 66 Phillips Street on Beacon Hill (now a national historic site), Lewis Hayden (1815-1889), the leading Black abolitionist in Boston, directed the secret operations of the "Underground Railroad." More than one-fourth of all fugitive slaves who passed through Boston were hidden, fed, and clothed there by Hayden and his wife Harriet. In May 1853 there were 13 fugitive slaves under their roof.

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### **School Desegregation in 1855**

In September 1855, after a long boycott of Black-only schools led by William C. Nell and a petition to the legislature that schools in Boston be desegregated, Blacks in Boston were free to attend previously all-white schools.

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### **20th Century**

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### **William Monroe Trotter's Equal Rights League**

In 1901 William Monroe Trotter (1873-1934) founded the Boston Equal Rights League to push for civil and human rights for Black people. The League operated nine years before the establishment of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).



William E. B. DuBois (1868-1963), born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, was the first African-American to receive the Ph.D. degree from Harvard (1895). His thesis was on the African Slave Trade. DuBois was influenced by Boston's fiery and "radical" civil rights leader William Monroe Trotter in the early 1900s and was a founder of the NAACP in 1910.

**William E. B. DuBois**

The Boston Branch of the NAACP, the first official and now the oldest branch of the NAACP, developed out of the Boston Committee to Advance the Cause of the Negro, established in 1910. Gathering in 1912 at the Park Street Church, 56 Bostonians (Black and white) received the official Branch charter which was inscribed with the statement of purpose: *"To uplift the colored men and women of this country by securing to them full enjoyment of their rights as citizens, justice in all courts, and equality of opportunity everywhere."*

**Oldest NAACP Branch**

In 1915 all of Boston's Black institutions, agencies, and community leaders united to protest the showing of the film, "Birth of a Nation," at the Tremont Theatre because the film portrayed southern Blacks as depraved and glorified the Ku Klux Klan. Despite the collective protest, the city allowed the film to complete its scheduled run through the summer. Six years later when the film was scheduled for a rerun at the Shubert Theatre, William Monroe Trotter and the Boston NAACP forced the banning of the film with some 600 members of Boston's Black community attending the hearing on the film.

**"Birth of a Nation" Protest**

Butler Wilson presided over the Boston Branch of the NAACP from 1916 to 1936, the longest presidential tenure in its history.

**NAACP President  
for 20 Years**

Led by two Black doctors, W. O. Taylor and William Worthy, a committee of Black Bostonians that included *Guardian* editor William Monroe Trotter successfully championed the cause of two Black high school graduates seeking admission to the nurses' training program at Boston's City Hospital in 1929. With this action, the committee forced the hospital to integrate its training program.

**Black Nurses Admitted  
to City Hospital**



Florence LeSuerer

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### **First Female President of NAACP Branch**

In 1948, when Florence LeSuerer was elected president of Boston's branch of the NAACP, she became the first woman in the country to head a local NAACP chapter. She served as branch president from 1948 to 1951.

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### **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leads Rally**

In April 1965 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a graduate of Boston University School of Theology, led a march from Roxbury to a rally on Boston Common to protest the evils of school segregation in Boston. Dr. King spoke at the State House where he appealed to the Massachusetts legislature to end discrimination in housing and *de facto* segregation in Boston's schools. In June the legislature passed The Racial Imbalance Act requiring school desegregation in Boston.



Martin Luther King, Jr., in Boston,  
April 1965



Dr. King leading march down Columbus Avenue to the Boston Common



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**School Desegregation Suit**

In 1972 a suit was filed by the Boston Branch NAACP against the Boston School Committee for maintaining a segregated school district and low quality education for its mostly Black student population. When Federal Court Judge W. Arthur Garrity, Jr., ordered a school desegregation plan in Boston in June 1974, a class of Black parent plaintiffs and the Boston Branch NAACP won a major victory.

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**Firefighters Association**

The Vulcans, Boston's African-American firefighters' association, was formed in 1972. At that time there had been only 17 Black and Hispanic firemen in the history of the city's fire department. When the Vulcans filed a court suit against the city of Boston for discrimination in hiring practices, the city admitted to the charges. Today there are more than 400 African-American firefighters in the force of 2,000.

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**Opening Doors  
of Opportunity**

Several organizations have strong track records of service to the African-American community. Three such organizations have worked for more than 20 years to open doors of opportunity for Blacks: the Contractors Association of Boston (CAB); the Black Patrolmen's Association, currently known as MAMLEO (the Massachusetts Association of Afro-American Law Enforcement Organizations); and the Vietnam Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse, founded by Ralph Cooper and Ron Armstead.

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**Housing Discrimination  
Victories**

In 1989 the Boston Branch of the NAACP won two major lawsuits for housing discrimination. Both cases were unique because they were the "first of their kind" in the country to award individuals monetary compensation, according to Attorney Dianne Wilkerson, the NAACP Housing Committee Chairperson. The first case filed in 1978 against the U.S. Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) took 11 years to move through the courts. The court ruled that HUD failed in its statutory duty to monitor federal funds and in doing so contributed to discriminatory practices against Black residents in Boston. This ruling brought sweeping institutional changes in federal housing expenditures and requires monitoring and enforcement by the Boston Fair Housing Commission.

The second case was filed in May 1988 against the Boston Housing Authority for discrimination in its selection policy of segregating prospective tenants who were Black, Hispanic, and Asian-American, by "systematically steering hundreds of Black families away from predominantly white housing projects in Charlestown, South Boston, and East Boston." In addition to the monetary compensation afforded to the victims, plaintiffs not already in public housing will get first choice of vacancies. The NAACP victory also included the creation of a Community Benefits Fund, financed at half a million dollars, to develop projects for integrated housing in Boston.

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## Education

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### 18th Century

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#### **The Fight for School Equality**

In 1787 Primus Hall and other Black leaders petitioned the Massachusetts legislature for equal school facilities for Black children.

#### **Primus Hall's School**

A school for Black children was begun on Beacon Hill in the home of Primus Hall in 1798.

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### 19th Century

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#### **First Black Public School**

In 1808 the first "public" school for Boston's African-American children was opened in the basement of the African Meeting House on Beacon Hill. Prince Saunders, an African-American teacher at the African Meeting House school, persuaded white businessman Abiel Smith to donate securities in his will worth about \$5,000 to the Boston School Committee for the education of Boston's Black children.

#### **Adelphic Union Library Association**

Boston's early 19th-century Black community was concerned with education and cultural needs. In 1838 the Adelphic Union Library Association was formed to encourage intellectual debates and offer lectures. At a time when women were generally excluded from public lectures, the Adelphic Union opened its meetings to all regardless of color or sex.

#### **Cyrus Foster, "griot" of Boston**

Cyrus Foster was the "griot" (storyteller) of Boston in the 19th century, known for his tales of New England Blacks during the Revolutionary War and early period of America's nationhood. A Revolutionary War veteran, Foster spent much of his time





Smith School

**CYRUS FOSTER'S**

**BENEFIT CONCERT  
FOR 1867,**

**AT BUNSTEAD HALL,  
WINTER STREET.**

**EVENING OF JANUARY 30th, 1867.**

Doors open at 6 1/2 o'clock. }  
 To commence at 8 o'clock. }

**Tickets, 25 cts.**

Cyrus Foster

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**Cyrus Foster,  
“griot” of Boston**

walking the streets and talking about his experiences. As a community oral historian, he was respected for his knowledge and ability to entertain the young and old.

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**Benjamin and Sarah  
Roberts Lawsuit**

Benjamin Roberts sued the Boston School Committee in 1849 for denying his daughter Sarah admission to an all-white Boston school. His action rallied school integration forces in the early 1850s, leading to the first official school desegregation in Boston in 1855. At that time the Massachusetts legislature passed a bill closing the all-Black Smith School. The action came after a long boycott of Black-only schools led by William C. Nell. This represented a victory in the struggle for equal school access waged by Boston's Black community beginning in 1834.

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**First Black Harvard  
College Graduate**

Richard Theodore Greener, class of 1870, was the first Black to graduate from Harvard College. He became a professor of mental and moral philosophy at the University of South Carolina and U.S. Consul at Vladivostok during the Russo-Japanese War.

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**Pioneer Historian  
and Minister**

George Washington Williams (1849-1891) was a graduate of Newton Theological Seminary (1874) and the Pastor of Boston's Twelfth Baptist Church from 1874-1876. After seven years of research he authored *A History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1880: Negroes as Slaves, as Soldiers and as Citizens*. The work in two volumes of over 500 pages each was an extraordinary historiography, the first and most important of its time. During the time he was pastor of Twelfth Baptist he wrote *The History of Twelfth Baptist Church from 1840-1874*.

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**First Elected to Boston  
School Committee**

The first African-American to serve on the Boston School Committee was Dr. James T. Still, who was elected in 1875. He served for one year. Dr. Samuel E. Courtney, a South End physician, was the second Black person to serve on the Boston School Committee. In 1897 he was elected at-large to a three-year term and served until 1901.



Parker Bailey

Parker Bailey (Class of 1877) and Clement Morgan (Class of 1886) were the first Black graduates of the Boston Latin School. Both went on to Harvard College. Bailey pursued a lifetime of teaching at the M Street High School in Washington, D.C. Morgan graduated from Harvard Law School and served as the first Black elected to the Common Council of Cambridge in 1898.

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### **Early Boston Latin Graduates**

The first Black teacher in the Boston Public Schools is believed to have been Harriet L. Smith, who taught from 1890 (at the Sharp School on Beacon Hill) to 1917 (at the Bowdoin School on Beacon Hill). Her sister, Elizabeth N. Smith, taught from 1894-1896. Other Black teachers during the early 1900s were Eleanor A. Smith, Blanche V. Smith, Mary E. Smith, Jacqueline Carroll, and Iola D. Yates.

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### **First Black Teacher**

In 1895 Boston's William Monroe Trotter became the first Black to receive a Phi Beta Kappa key from Harvard University.

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### **Harvard Phi Beta Kappa**



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## 20th Century

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### George W. Forbes, Librarian

George W. Forbes (1864-1927) served as reference librarian from 1896 to 1927 in the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, the city's busiest branch at the time. While the West End Beacon Hill neighborhood was a predominantly Black neighborhood during the late 1890s, a Jewish population predominated by 1910. On Forbes's death, *The Jewish Daily Forward* paid tribute to the librarian for his "knowledge and intelligence and good human heart [which] helped tens and hundreds of intelligent Jews to get on their feet." See p. 116 for Forbes's career in journalism prior to his library service.

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### Brighton High Valedictorian

In 1911 an African-American girl, F. Marion Reed, was valedictorian of her class at Brighton High School. With an overall average of 95 for her four years of high school study, she was in the top ten of academically achieving students out of 1,291 graduates from Boston high schools in 1911.

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### First Black School Principal

Maria L. Baldwin of Cambridge became the first Black school principal in Massachusetts when she was appointed to head the Agassiz School in Cambridge in 1899. She remained in the position until 1922.

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### Racist Song Removed

In 1915 the Boston Branch NAACP won a victory when it persuaded the Boston School Committee to withdraw from the schools the book *Forty Best Songs*. The local NAACP objected to the words "darky," "nigger," and "massa" in the songs, and said in its petition to the committee that "our [Black] children have returned home from school broken-hearted that these songs are sung and that white children had jeered them."

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### Pioneering Teacher of Reading

Wilhelmina Crosson, one of the first African-American teachers in the Boston Public Schools (1923-1949), started her career at the Hancock School in the North End. Working in the Italian-American community with first-generation Italian children, she instituted the first remedial reading program in Boston, opening the first center at the Paul Revere School in the North End.



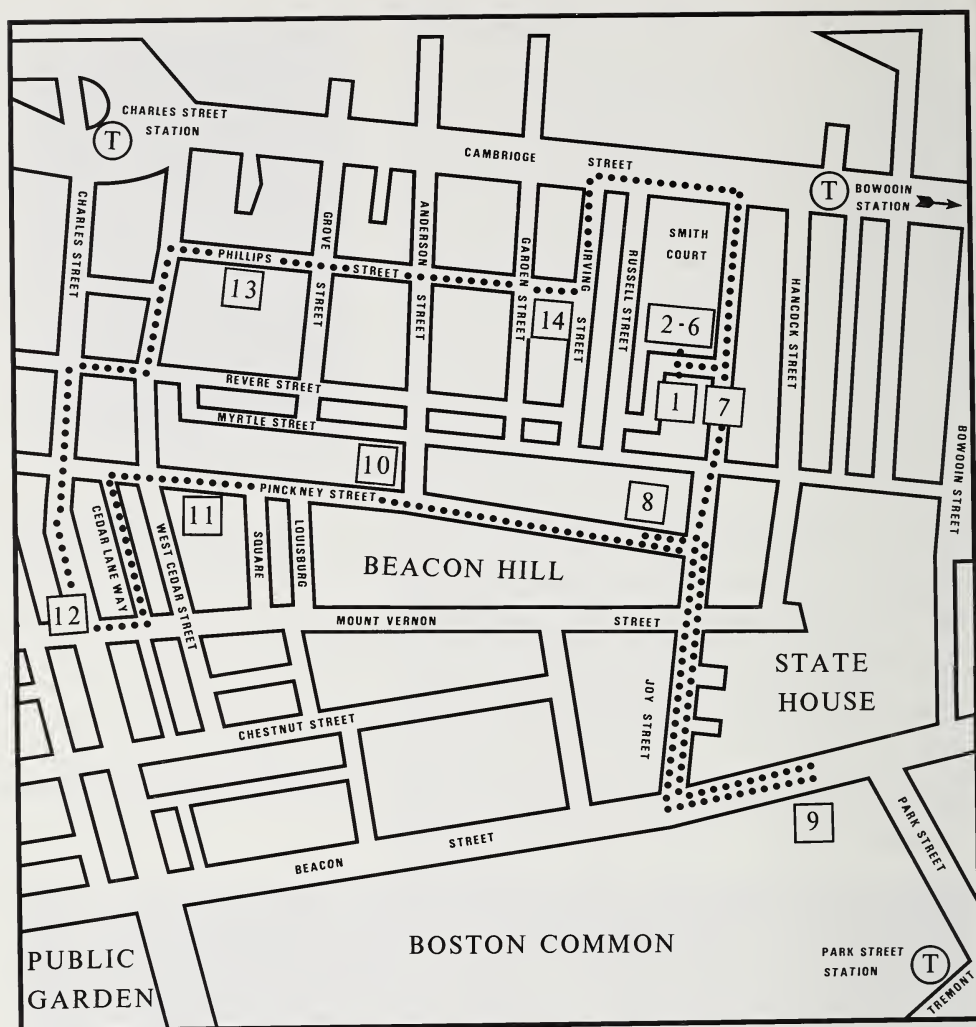
Maria Baldwin

A group of Black women led by Wilhelmina Crosson started the Aristo Club in 1924 to teach African-American history in the Boston schools and Black community and to boost educational and cultural opportunities for Boston's Black youth. In 1926 the Club sponsored the first official Negro History Week program in Boston. Decade after decade up through the 1970s, the Aristo Club provided pageants, musicals, and Black history exhibits each February to raise money for its scholarship program.

## Aristo Club



Aristo Club members at 1963 Negro History Week exhibit



## Black Heritage Trail

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. African Meeting House                           | 10. Phillips School              |
| 2-6. Smith Court Residences                        | 11. John J. Smith House          |
| 7. Abiel Smith School                              | 12. Charles Street Meeting House |
| 8. George Middleton House                          | 13. Lewis Hayden House           |
| 9. Robert Gould Shaw and<br>54th Regiment Memorial | 14. Coburn's Gaming House        |



In December 1935 Victor Bynoe won first place (and \$50) in the annual public speaking contest at Northeastern University.	<b>Prize Winning Orator</b>
The Boston Branch of the NAACP founded its Educational Counseling Committee in 1948 to provide higher education information and guidance to Black young people in Boston high schools. Twenty years later in 1968 the Committee counseled over 340 students and awarded \$20,000 in direct college aid to 60 young scholars.	<b>NAACP Educational Counseling Committee</b>
The Black Heritage Trail on Beacon Hill in Boston is a walking tour which explores the history of the city's 19th-century African-American community. The tour was started in 1963 as an informal walking tour of some 10 sites by J. Marcus Mitchell, the first curator of the Museum of Negro History (now the Museum of Afro-American History). In 1968 the tour was formally presented in a brochure designed and written by Gaunzetta and J. Marcus Mitchell and was called The Black Heritage Trail, starting at the Charles Street Meeting House (then the name of the Museum). Today the Trail consists of some 14 sites commencing at the African Meeting House: Smith Court residences, Abiel Smith School, George Middleton House, Robert Gould Shaw and 54th Massachusetts Regiment memorial, Phillips School, John J. Smith House, Charles Street Meeting House, Lewis Hayden House, and Coburn's Gaming House. Tours may be arranged by calling the National Park Service in Boston.	<b>Black Heritage Trail</b>
On June 4, 1963 the Education Committee of Boston's NAACP Branch called for a public hearing on <i>de facto</i> segregation in the city's public schools. At a June 11 hearing the committee presented its case on behalf of Black students.	<b><i>De Facto</i> Segregation Hearing</b>
Dr. Benjamin Quarles, born in Boston in 1904 and a graduate of English High School, became an eminent 20th-century African-American historian. He is the author of <i>The Negro in the Making of America</i> , <i>Black Abolitionists</i> , <i>Lincoln and the Negro</i> , <i>The Negro in the American Revolution</i> ,	<b>Dr. Benjamin Quarles, Historian</b>

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**Dr. Benjamin Quarles,  
Historian**

and a definitive study of Frederick Douglass. He is now Professor Emeritus of history at Morgan State College in Baltimore.

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**Racial Imbalance  
in Schools**

In July 1964 an advisory committee to the State Board of Education, chaired by Dr. Owen B. Kiernan, reported that segregation existed in 78 percent of the schools in Massachusetts and that racial imbalance was detrimental to sound education in six specific ways, including "serious conflict with the American creed of equal opportunity."

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**Rev. Vernon Carter's  
Vigil**

In 1965 Rev. Vernon Carter, minister of the All Saints Lutheran Church in Boston's South End in the 1950s and 1960s, conducted a personal 114-day vigil/march in front of the Boston School Committee Headquarters to protest racial imbalance in the Boston schools.



Rev. Vernon Carter



Ellen S. Jackson, founder of Operation Exodus

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The Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM), originally called the Massachusetts Negro Educators Association, was founded in 1965. Led by the late Rollins Griffith, and including John D. O'Bryant, Gerry Hill, Barbara Jackson, and Jean McGuire, it was the first professional association of Black educators in Massachusetts. Now 25 years old, BEAM continues to work on educational issues and practices, sponsor workshops, collaborate with community agencies, and raise money for Black student college scholarships.

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### **Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts**

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The Massachusetts Racial Imbalance Act, spearheaded by Boston's African-American community, was passed in 1965, making Massachusetts the first state in the nation to outlaw *de facto* segregation in a school district.

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### **Racial Imbalance Act**

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Ellen Swepson Jackson was founder and executive director of Operation Exodus, a privately initiated inner-city busing program that began in 1965 to help Black students living near substandard schools to attend "better" schools in other generally all-white neighborhoods in Boston.

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### **Operation Exodus**

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In another approach to upgrading education for Boston's Black students, the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) was founded in 1966, and 219 Boston students began attending school in seven suburban communities (Newton, Brookline, Wellesley, Lexington, Lin-

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### **Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity**

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**Metropolitan Council for  
Educational Opportunity**

coln, Arlington, and Braintree). Today there are 3,200 METCO students from Boston's Black neighborhoods attending school in 34 suburban school districts. METCO is the only program of its kind in the United States.

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**First Black on Board of  
Education**

Judge Richard Banks was the first African-American to serve on the State Board of Education in Massachusetts from 1966 to 1973.

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**First School Principal**

The first African-American to be appointed as a school principal in the Boston Public Schools was Gladys Wood. Appointed in 1966 to administer the Dearborn district (composed of three elementary schools), she then moved into the Tileston district and to the Chittick School, serving for 15 years as a Boston school administrator.

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**Student Unions**

Beginning in the fall of 1968, Black student unions were formed in most Boston high schools to defend the rights of Black students and to push for educational reform in Boston.

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**Ruth M. Batson  
Educational Foundation**

The Ruth M. Batson Educational Foundation was established in 1969 "to help improve the quality of education and to expand educational opportunities for those who have been relegated to a disadvantaged category because of discrimination." In its first 20 years the Foundation made over 160 grants totaling nearly \$130,000 to Black college students and Black institutions and community groups.



Ruth M. Batson (center) with Boston University medical students





Rollins Griffith (left) in 1972 photo with John O'Bryant, first African-American elected to the Boston School Committee in the 20th century

Rollins Griffith (1925-1978) was the first African-American to assume the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Boston with his appointment in 1970.

**Rollins Griffith**

Roxbury Community College was established in 1973 and its new permanent campus was opened at New Dudley Street and Columbus Avenue to serve the higher education needs of Blacks, Hispanics, and others who previously did not have access to the kind of post-secondary schooling that offered preparation for college or for the workplace.

**Roxbury Community  
College**

The first African-American Library Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was Dr. Adelaide Cromwell Gulliver, who was appointed in 1974. The second to serve on the Commission was Robert C. Hayden from 1978 to 1980.

**Library Commissioners**



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**Robert C. Hayden,  
Author/Historian**

Robert C. Hayden has been the leading researcher and writer of Boston African-American history for over 20 years. From 1974-1983 he wrote a weekly column entitled "Boston's Black History" for *The Bay State Banner* newspaper. His other works include *Faith, Culture and Leadership: A History of the Black Church in Boston*; *Boston's NAACP History — 1910 to 1982*; *The African Meeting House in Boston: A Celebration of History*; *Singing for All People*; *Roland Hayes — A Biography*; and *A History of METCO: Suburban Education for Boston's Urban Students* (co-authored with Ruth M. Batson). Hayden is known nationally for his books entitled *Seven Black American Scientists*, *Eight Black American Inventors*, and *Nine Black American Doctors*.

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**Paige Academy**

In 1975 Angela Paige Cook with her husband Joseph Cook founded Paige Academy in the Highland Park section of Roxbury. The academy has become a nationally recognized private pre-school and elementary school with the arts and sciences as vital components of the curriculum. As a unique community institution specializing in early childhood care and education, it is one of the community agencies participating in Project AFRIC (Advancement for Families Rich in Children). AFRIC targets African-American families who will receive services in health care, nutrition, child care, and adult education and training under a five-year demonstration project funded by the federal Comprehensive Child Development Act.

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**Veteran School  
Committeeman**

In 1977 John O'Bryant was elected to Boston School Committee, becoming the first African-American elected to serve on the Committee in the 20th century. In 1989 he was elected to his seventh two-year term, and in 1991 he became president of that body for the second time.

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**First African-American Dean  
at B.U.**

Hubert (Hubie) Jones became the first African-American dean at Boston University when he was appointed to head the School of Social Work in 1977. Since 1980 he has served also as a distinguished social commentator on public affairs every Sunday morning on the Channel 5 TV program, "Five on Five."

Appointed to the position in 1984 and reappointed in 1990, Berthé M. Gaines is the first African-American woman to serve as a trustee of the Boston Public Library and only the fourth woman to serve in the history of the Library, which was established in 1848. Her appointment followed a time of fiscal crisis for the city (1981-1984) when she was actively involved in SAVE OUR LIBRARIES, a citywide multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural group of men and women committed to keeping neighborhood libraries open.

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#### Library Trustee

In 1985 Dr. Laval S. Wilson became the first African-American to hold the position of Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools in the history of the 354-year-old school system. He served as superintendent for five years, one of the longest tenures for an urban school superintendent.

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#### First African-American Superintendent

Dr. Franklyn Jenifer was appointed Chancellor of Higher Education in Massachusetts in 1986 by Governor Michael Dukakis, becoming the first African-American to hold this position. In 1990 he became president of Howard University in Washington, D.C.

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#### Chancellor of Higher Education

*Eyes on the Prize – America's Civil Rights Years 1954-1965*, a television mini-series produced by Henry Hampton, President of Blackside, Inc., a film production company in Boston, was seen by over 20 million national viewers in 1987. This story of the modern civil rights movement won several prestigious awards, among them, "Program of the Year" – TV Critics Association; Best Documentary by TV Guide; Best of Festival by American Film and Video Festival; Broadcast Journalism's Most Prestigious Award; The Dupont-Columbia Gold Baton Award; and an Emmy from the National Academy of TV Arts and Sciences. In 1990, after two more years of archival film research and oral history, a second TV series, *Eyes on the Prize II – America at the Racial Crossroads 1965-1985*, made its debut on National Public Television.

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#### *Eyes on the Prize*

Henry Hampton





Tutor Sam Perry at the Boston Public Library

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**Muriel Snowden**  
**International High School**

While Muriel Snowden (1916-1988) was still alive, the Boston School Committee renamed Copley Square High School, The Muriel Snowden International High School, in recognition of Mrs. Snowden's efforts to foster the study of other cultures and foreign languages among urban youth and for co-founding and directing Freedom House in Boston (with her husband, Otto) from 1949-1984.

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**Master Tutor**

For 30 years Samuel P. Perry, Jr., has spent his days and nights tutoring boys and girls in all subjects, preparing them for college. Almost any late afternoon you can see this quiet whirlwind of a Black man rushing back and forth among a half dozen Black students in Bates Hall, the huge research/reading room of the Boston Public Library. On Saturdays he tutors at the Dudley Branch Library. More than 600 students have passed through his tutelage — seven have become doctors, five are engineers, and three have MBAs. His students have gone on to Vassar, Harvard, MIT, and Dartmouth.



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# Creative Arts

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## 18th Century

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Lucy Terry Prince (c. 1733-1821), sometimes referred to as America’s first Black poet, was a Massachusetts storyteller whose poem “The Bar’s Fight” was written in 1746 while she was still a slave.

First Poet

Phillis Wheatley, a slave in Boston who gained her freedom in 1772, became the first African-American to publish a book of poetry, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*.

Phillis Wheatley



Phillis Wheatley

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**18th-Century Artist**

Early artist Scipio Moorhead (c. 1773-?) is documented primarily in a poem by the slave poet Phillis Wheatley entitled "To S.M., a Young African Painter, on Seeing His Works." In a penciled note of the 1773 edition of her *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, she identifies S.M. as "Scipio Moorhead, a Negro servant to Rev. John Moorhead of Boston." Rev. Moorhead's wife was an art teacher. It is possible that Moorhead engraved the unsigned portrait of Phillis Wheatley, used as a frontispiece for several of her poetry publications.

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**19th Century**

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**Histrionic Club**

The Histrionic Club, the first Black drama group in Boston, was founded in the late 1840s. Many of the plays it produced were written by William C. Nell.

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**First Published Novelist**

William Wells Brown, a novelist, playwright, historian, essayist, lecturer, physician, and abolitionist, spent most of his life and published most of his work in Boston. He is especially noted for *Clotel: or The President's Daughter: A Narrative of Slave Life in the United States* (1853), the first published novel written by an African-American.

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**Renowned Artist**

In the mid-19th century Edward M. Bannister became one of the earliest Black artists in Boston to win widespread praise for his work. His crayon portraits were noted for their excellence. He later moved to Providence, Rhode Island, where he became the principal founder of the Providence Art Club.

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**19th-Century Guitarist**

James Gloucester Demarest was a 19th-century musician who taught the guitar and violin in Boston and also composed for these instruments.

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**Musical Composer**

Henry F. Williams, who was born in Boston in 1813, was an outstanding musician and composer for the violin and cornet, as well as the double bass, the viola, the violoncello, the baritone, the trombone, the tuba, and the pianoforte. He also arranged music for the Gilmore Band in Boston and was manager of the Boston Cadet Band.



Edmonia Lewis (1845-1890) was America's first Black artist recognized for her reliefs and busts of great anti-slavery leaders and for *Forever Free*, a composition of marble (completed in 1867) showing a man and woman overcome with emotion on hearing news of their emancipation from slavery. Lewis began her art career in Boston between 1862 and 1865 where she studied under Edmund Brackets and did a bust of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, the Commander of the first Black regiment organized in Massachusetts during the Civil War. Working from her studio at 89 Tremont Street, she created sculptures of Boston military heroes and abolitionists which were sold at the Soldier's Relief Fair to raise monies for the Civil War veterans' relief fund.

**19th-Century Sculptor**

The Progressive Musical Union, an organization of Black musicians, sponsored its first public concert on March 9, 1875.

**Progressive Musical Union**

Rachel M. Washington was the first African-American to graduate from the New England Conservatory of Music in the year 1876. She served as organist and choir director at Twelfth Baptist Church in the latter half of the 19th century and was a leading music teacher in Boston's Black community.

**First Graduate,  
New England  
Conservatory of Music**

In 1885 James Monroe Trotter published a widely acclaimed book, *Music and Some Highly Musical People*, a tribute to some 200 Black groups and individuals for their musical achievement in Boston and the United States during the 1800s.

**James Monroe Trotter**

**20th Century**

Pauline Hopkins, a Black high school student in Boston, won the first prize of "ten dollars in gold," offered by the Congregational Publishing Society of Boston in 1895 for her essay on the "Evils of Intemperance and Their Remedies." She went on to become a writer for the *Colored American Magazine*. In the early 1900s her articles and novels were important protest literature, in which she addressed problems and issues on race relations "thought to be unspeakable" and not touched by other journals.

**Protest Writer**

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**Opera Producer**

Theodore Drury, who had earlier produced operas with Black casts in New York City, organized and trained a Black company in Boston in the early years of the 20th century. In 1907 "Aida" and a scene from "Carmen" were produced, and "Faust" and "Cavalleria Rusticana" in the following year.

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**Literary Giant**

William Stanley Braithwaite (1878-1962) of Boston was a significant force in the development of creative American literature from 1906 to 1936. He was a poet, journalist, essayist, and pioneering anthologist of American poetry, writing some 31 books of poetry and prose. In 1918 he received the coveted Spingarn Medal from the NAACP for his many achievements.

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**Boston Negro Arts Club**

The Boston Negro Arts Club was formed in 1907 and its first exhibition was held the same year.

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***Plea for Negro Soldiers***

Charles Frederick White, who studied at Boston Latin School, published *Plea for the Negro Soldiers*, and *One Hundred Other Poems* in 1908.

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Dorothy West signing copies of *The Living Is Easy*

Meta Warwick Fuller, who lived in Framingham, Massachusetts, from 1909 until her death in 1968, was widely acclaimed for her sculpture. Her sculptures of human figures were exhibited both locally and nationally.

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**Internationally Recognized  
Sculptor**

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Dorothy West, born in 1910 and raised in Boston, became a leading novelist, short-story writer, editor, and columnist. Her novel *The Living Is Easy* (about growing up Black in Boston) was published in 1948; currently she writes a column for the *Vineyard Gazette* on Martha's Vineyard Island.

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**20th-Century Novelist**

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Roland Hayes, who gained national and international fame as a classical concert artist, launched his career in Boston's Symphony Hall in 1917. He lived, studied, and worked in Boston and Brookline, Massachusetts, from 1912 until his death in 1977. In 1921 the noted tenor gave a command performance before the King and Queen of England at Buckingham Palace. He pioneered in bringing African-American religious folk-songs (the spirituals) to the American and world concert stage.

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**Roland Hayes,  
Vocal Artist**

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Roland Hayes accompanied by Reginald Boardman



Ralf Coleman



Allan Rohan Crite

### Ancrum School of Music

The Ancrum School of Music operated for over three decades in the early 1900s at 74 W. Rutland Square. It was established and directed by Estelle A. Forster, an early Black graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music. She advertised *"Courses in Piano, Organ, Viola, Voice, Flute, Brass and Wind Instruments, Harmony, Solfegeo, Theory and all musical subjects. Excellent Facility. Two Dormitories and Cafeteria."*

### Theater Pioneer

Ralf Coleman, actor, writer, director, manager, and producer of numerous stage hits, was a major Black theater pioneer in New England between the two world wars. He held many important theater posts, including director of the Negro Federal Theatre of Massachusetts from 1934 to 1939 and Executive Director of The Negro Repertory Theatre of Boston.



The Academy of Musical Arts, founded by Anna Bobbitt Gardner, has been providing music lessons in Boston for over 65 years. The Academy (originally called Pianoforte Studio) was started in the basement of her home on Claremont Park. When the school moved to its present site on Columbus Avenue, it also had satellite schools of music in Cambridge, West Medford, and West Newton.

**Academy of Musical Arts**

In February 1927 the Boston Stage Society, an affiliate of the Ford Hall Forum, presented the first Negro play to gain a wide audience in Boston, “The Rider of Dreams,” by Ridley Torrence.

**“Rider of Dreams”**

Stanley E. Brown (1902-1977) was a nationally known dancer and dance instructor in Boston from 1929 to 1977. Founder of the Stanley Brown Dance Studio, he trained and coached hundreds of professionals. “Sugar Ray” Robinson took tap lessons from Brown as did Cab Calloway, Diana Ross, and Lola Falana. In addition to tap dance, he taught ballet, marches, and ballroom dancing. “As a dancer, he was one of the last of our oracles. When dancers wanted to know something, they went to Stanley before they went to a book,” said singer Mae Arnette in 1977.

**Nationally Known Dancer**

For over 60 years Rebecca Ellastine Lee Broadnax (1893-1987) was a renowned voice and piano teacher in greater Boston. For teenagers she founded the Cantemus Club in 1934, a group of 24 students who presented concerts and recitals in Boston and throughout New England until 1952. She organized the L’Africaine Singers, a choral ensemble of adult professionals. She directed junior, senior, and children’s choirs at various churches and community agencies.

**Renowned Voice and Piano Teacher**

Allan Rohan Crite (1910- ) is Boston’s most distinguished Black artist and art historian, noted for an eclectic range of subjects — from religious themes to neighborhood scenes. His religious artwork can be seen in the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin on Lenox Street in lower Roxbury. His views of Blacks in an urban setting, Crite says, “present [people] in an ordinary light, persons en-

**Allan Rohan Crite**



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## Allan Rohan Crite

joying the usual pleasures of life with its mixtures of both sorrows and joys." Crite's works have been exhibited throughout the United States and Europe and are in the permanent collections of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Boston Public Library, and Boston Athenaeum. His illustrated books, including *The Christmas Message in Pictures* and *Some of the Colored Peoples of God*, are collector's items.

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## Legendary Jazz Pianist

Sabby Lewis has become a legendary jazz pianist and band leader in Boston. He organized his first band in Boston in 1936. In 1942 his musical talent was recognized when he was chosen to perform a Sunday-night NBC radio broadcast. In the 1950s and 1960s he played on Broadway in New York City and at leading clubs in New York and Boston — in Boston at the Savoy (where he first introduced jazz for listening in 1940), the Hi-Hat, and at Wally's Paradise. For decades Sabby Lewis's bands played for ballroom dances all over New England. At age 75 Mr. Lewis is still at the piano — more recently at the Westin Hotel and in The Lounge at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Boston.



Sabby Lewis



James Henderson (far right) with theater group

Born in Roxbury in 1900, Mildred Davenport became a trailblazing dancer and renowned dance instructor. Her first career was in show business. In 1938 she danced her interpretation of the African-American spirituals with the Boston Pops. She appeared on Broadway with such reviews as "Blackbirds" and "Flying Colors" and danced with white performers such as Imogene Coca and Clifton Webb. For more than five years she toured in the "Chocolate Revue" in New York, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. With her dancing career behind her, she served as an officer in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II. From 1947 to 1968 she worked for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

### Trailblazing Dancer

James Henderson (1894-1979) was a pioneering actor and developer of the Black theater in Boston during the first half of the 20th century. As a playwright, he toured New England with his Black theater groups.

### Pioneering Playwright

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**Actor, Playwright,  
Producer and  
Drama Teacher**

For more than 40 years Vernon F. Blackman was a significant force in the theater. Beginning his stage career with the Little Theater Players, he founded the People's Theater Company of Cambridge and the Theater Company of Boston. From the 1950s until his death in 1990, Blackman was an instructor and mentor to Blacks in the theater. He appeared in the Theater Company of Boston's 1964 production of "In the Jungle of the Cities" and in "Something about the Blues," a 1979 TV drama shown nationally on PBS. He became director of drama at the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts in 1968, and for the next 21 Christmas seasons he directed the School's production of "Black Nativity."

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**Tap King**

Boston born and raised, Jimmy Slyde has gained national and international fame as a tap dancer in films and concerts. Studying dance with Stanley Brown and Mildred Davenport in Boston, he started his early career in the city's vaudeville, theaters, and nightclubs — the RKO, the Old Howard, and the Frolic in Revere. His dance career spans more than 40 years and has included performances with Judy Garland in the film, "A Star is Born"; in the Berlin Jazz Festival in 1966; and with Gregory Hines and the late Sammy Davis, Jr., in "Tap." During the past ten years he has been teaching tap dancing in Europe.

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**Elma Lewis School**

The Elma Lewis School was established in 1950 to give expert training in the arts to children, youth, and adults. Its students have performed on Broadway and in symphony orchestras. During its 40 years of existence, the School has been producing professional artists and changing the quality of life for its community and students. Under the artistic direction of Elma Lewis, today it continues as the teaching arm of the National Center of African-American artists. The Center was founded in 1978 in Boston to compile, interpret, and disseminate the culture of African-American people as defined by their art product. It has become an institution for understanding the culture and visual arts heritage of Africans and people of African descent throughout the world.



Elma Lewis



Jimmy Slyde





Ann Hobson Pilot, harpist



Roy Haynes, drummer

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### **First with Boston Symphony**

The first African-American to play with the Boston Symphony Orchestra was bass player Ortiz Walton in the late 1950s.

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### **Internationally Known Drummer**

Roy Haynes, a Roxbury native, is a nationally known drummer and has played a significant role in the changing sound of jazz in a career that encompasses several eras from the bebop of Charlie Parker and Thelonius Monk to Chick Corea's avant-fusion.

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### **Boston Afro-American Artists, Inc.**

The Boston Afro-American Artists, Inc. (BAAA) — (formerly The Boston Negro Artists Association) — was organized in 1963 by J. Marcus Mitchell and Calvin Burnett to stimulate the development of and appreciation for the visual arts within the Black community. Incorporated in 1966, the BAAA developed the first viable association for both amateur and professional artists in the Boston area. Its "Sunday in the Park" show has become a popular community event each year providing Black artists a marketplace in which to exhibit and sell their work.



Art historian Edmund B. Gaither, curator and director of the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, has been a leading spokesman for the Black artist in Boston for over 25 years. He is internationally known as an advocate of African-American visual artists and as a contributor to the understanding and appreciation of the global heritage of Black people. A consultant to the Museum of Fine Arts, he is also co-founder of the African-American Museums Association.

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#### **Art Historian**

“Black Nativity,” a folk-song rendering of the Christian story based on Langston Hughes’s gospel song-play about the birth of Christ, has become an annual tradition in Boston since 1969. First presented in the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts, it has attracted a wider audience in its performances on stage at Northeastern University and most recently at the Opera House in Boston. Members of an all-Black professional cast under the musical direction of John Andrew Ross wed their talents with the voices of children as young as five, appearing on stage for the first time.

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#### **“Black Nativity”**

Ann Hobson Pilot is the principal harpist in the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO). As the only African-American in the BSO for over 20 years, she started as a second harpist in 1969, moved to associate harpist and then to principal harpist in 1980. Nationally she is the only principal African-American musician of a major symphony orchestra.

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#### **Principal Harpist in BSO**

The Kuumba Singers of Harvard and Radcliffe have become a prominent fixture in the local musical world during the past 20 years. Established in 1970 to give Black students at the Ivy League schools an opportunity to celebrate their culture, the Kuumba Singers offer a unique form of African-American spirituals, jazz, master choral works, poetry, and African chants. Robert Winfrey, musical director of the group since 1973, says he takes pride in the Singers for their music and, beyond that, for their skill as organizers who negotiate their own engagement contracts and plan nationwide tours.

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#### **The Kuumba Singers**



T. J. Anderson, composer

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**T. J. Anderson,  
Composer**

T. J. Anderson, who served as Chairman of the Department of Music and is currently the Austin Fletcher Professor of Music at Tufts University, is a leading 20th-century composer. He is recognized for his orchestration of Scott Joplin's opera, *Tree-monisha*, which premiered in Atlanta in 1972. He has served on the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.

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**Superstar Singer**

Dorchester's own Donna Summer revolutionized the music industry's disco craze with the release of her "mega-hit," "Love to Love You, Baby," in 1977.

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**Master Artists  
in Residency**

The African-American Master Artists in Residency Program (AAMARP) at Northeastern University was established in 1977 by renowned artist and professor Dana Chandler. AAMARP has been dedicated to providing its constituencies with the best aesthetic presentations from the widest spectrum of artists available. Its studios and galleries have provided spaces for dozens of African, Asian, Hispanic, European, and Native American artists and exhibits.



Donna Summer

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Among the leading 20th-century Black artists whose works have educated and contributed to the life of all Bostonians are Ellen Banks, John Barbour, Roger Beatty, Calvin Burnett, Dana Chandler, Robin Chandler, Allan Rohan Crite, Milton Derr, Paul Goodnight, James Guilford, Barbara Holt, Arnold Hurley, Larry Johnson, Lois Mailou Jones, Napoleon Jones-Henderson, Harriet Kennedy, J. Marcus Mitchell, James Reed, Gary Rickson, Rudy Robinson, Henry Washington, John Wilson, and Richard Yarde.

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#### **Major 20th-Century Artists**

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## **Business/Industry**

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### **18th Century**

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#### **Prosperous Hat Maker**

Stephen Jackson was a prosperous hat maker in Boston in the 1730s, when “a man would as soon go without his head as go without his hat.”

#### **Early Leader in Shipping and Civil Rights**

Paul Cuffe of the Westport-New Bedford area became a prosperous merchant, mariner, ship-builder and owner between 1780 and 1810. He pioneered the opening up of trade with West African countries, using his own ships. He was also the nation’s first Black millionaire who used his considerable resources to work on behalf of his people.

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### **19th Century**

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#### **First Black Printing Business**

In 1838 Benjamin Roberts established Boston’s first Black-owned and operated printing business.

#### **Coburn’s Gaming House**

John P. Coburn (1811-1873), a prosperous clothing dealer and property owner, hired the famous Boston architect Asher Benjamin to design a home which he eventually used as a gaming house. Built in 1843 and still standing at the corner of Phillips and Irving Streets on Beacon Hill, Coburn’s Gaming House was described as a “private place” that was “the resort of the upper ten who had acquired a taste for gambling.” Coburn left an estate of \$18,500 in real estate and \$2,000 in cash.

#### **Black Businesses in 1846**

Nearly 200 of Boston’s 800 black residents operated businesses in 1846.

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Coburn's Gaming House



Eliza A. Gardner

Eliza Ann Gardner conducted a prosperous dress-making business in Boston before the Civil War and did the delicate needlework for the first banner made for the Plymouth Rock Chapter of Odd Fellows.

### Prosperous Dressmaker

Peyton Stewart, who was in the clothes cleaning business in the mid-1800s, opened a gymnasium with mostly white patronage on the corner of Boylston and Washington Streets. Assisted by his daughter in giving athletic instructions, he operated this prosperous business until his death in 1870.

### Gymnasium Owner



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**Civil War Caterer  
and Senator**

For more than 25 years Joshua B. Smith (1813-1879) operated a thriving catering business for private individuals and abolitionist organizations as well as for the troops during the Civil War. He represented Cambridge as a senator in the state legislature during 1873 and 1874.

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**Early Entrepreneur**

By 1885 J. H. Lewis, one of the best known clothiers of the period, developed a thriving business making fashionable "bell trousers" in a large shop on Washington Street in Boston's downtown business district.

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**Successful Tailor Shop**

Advertising that clothing could be "cleaned, dyed, pressed and repaired," Andrew Bush owned a successful merchant tailor shop in New Bedford, Massachusetts, in the late 1800s.

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**Labor Unions**

Labor unions for Blacks in Boston came into existence in the late 1800s with the establishment of the Boston Colored Waiters' Alliance or Local 183 of the American Federation of Labor. Members were so-called public waiters, not regularly employed, but hired for catering and temporary hotel and restaurant jobs. They held their charter from the white waiters' alliance, but they withdrew to form a semi-independent group.



Laborers in Boston in late 19th century

African-American businessman Henry C. Turner (1852-1919) owned a boarding stable and garage (1890-1919) and operated a large livery business in Boston, servicing a mostly white clientele. Constructed in 1900, his stable and garage, always ready with horses, buggies, and carriages for hire, still stands today, housing the College of Engineering at Boston University on Cummington Street.

**Stable/Livery Business**

Of the 197 Boston businesses operated by Blacks in 1900, 70 were in wholesale and retail trade, 107 were in personal service, and 20 were in other lines (for example, printing, newspaper publishing, cigar manufacturing, banking, and real estate rental). Those with personal services included tailors, undertakers, caterers, livery services and stables, boarding and lodging keepers, restaurant owners, barbershops, laundries and bootblack stands.

**Black Businesses in 1900**

The National Negro Business League was founded in Boston in 1900 by Booker T. Washington "to bring the colored people who are engaged in business together for consultation, and to secure information and inspiration from each other." More than 400 business people from 34 states attended the convention in Boston.

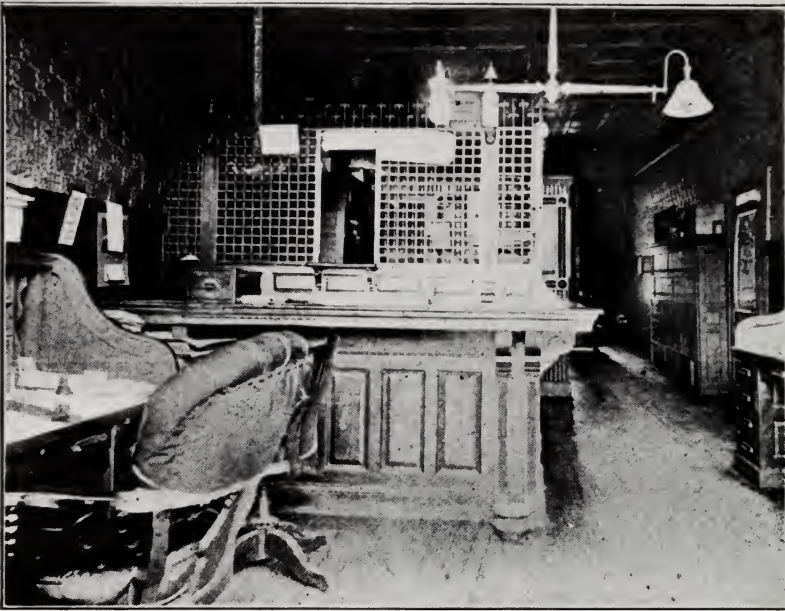
**National Negro Business League**

The largest wig manufacturer in Boston in the early 1900s was Gilbert C. Harris. By 1910 his mail-order business was the largest of its kind in New England, supplying theatrical stock companies throughout the country.

**Wig Manufacturer**

David E. Crawford opened Eureka Co-Operative Bank in Boston in 1910, "the only bank in the East owned and operated by 'Colored People.'" He was appointed a master in the Chancery by the Governor of Massachusetts in 1915, and in 1916 the citizens of Boston elected him as a delegate to the National Republican Convention in Chicago. By 1920 his holdings of apartments, stores, and commercial properties were valued at \$150,000.

**Eureka Co-Operative Bank**



Interior view of Eureka Cooperative Bank

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### **Goode Trust Company**

The Goode Trust Company, or Jesse Goode Associates, was a group of some 20 Boston Blacks, most of them waiters, who pooled their weekly savings to invest in real estate in the first decade of this century. Its president was Jesse Goode, head of the large retail and wholesale grocery firm of Goode, Dunson & Henry. In 1910 the group's holdings were assessed at \$73,000 in value.

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### **Black-Owned Hotels**

There were three Black-owned and operated hotels in Boston in 1915: the Pitts, Carlton, and Melbourne.

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### **Largest Real Estate Business**

In the early 20th century Theodore Raymond built up the largest real estate business in the city of Cambridge, with property holdings estimated at about \$200,000.

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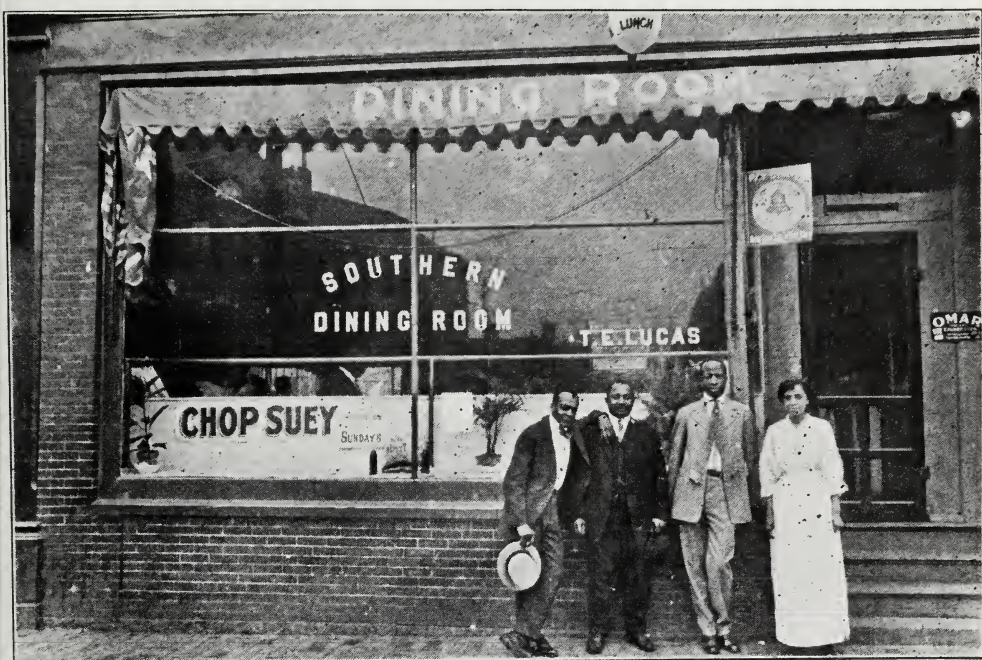
### **Famous Restaurants**

Small lunchrooms and restaurants were plentiful during the early 1900s in Boston's Black neighborhoods. One was the Southern Dining Room operated by Thomas E. Lucas, who advertised his place as "cool, clean and commodious. . . . Good food and prompt attentive service have made this



a most desirable place for discriminating people.” From the 1920s to the 1960s, Slade’s Restaurant was famous for its “soul food,” especially its barbecued chicken cooked in a rotisserie in a front window in full view of passersby at its 958 Tremont Street location. This once famous landmark was established by Renner Slade, who also owned and operated his own chicken farm. Another famous restaurant/night club of the past was Estelle’s, just a few doors down from Slade’s at 888 Tremont Street.

## Famous Restaurants

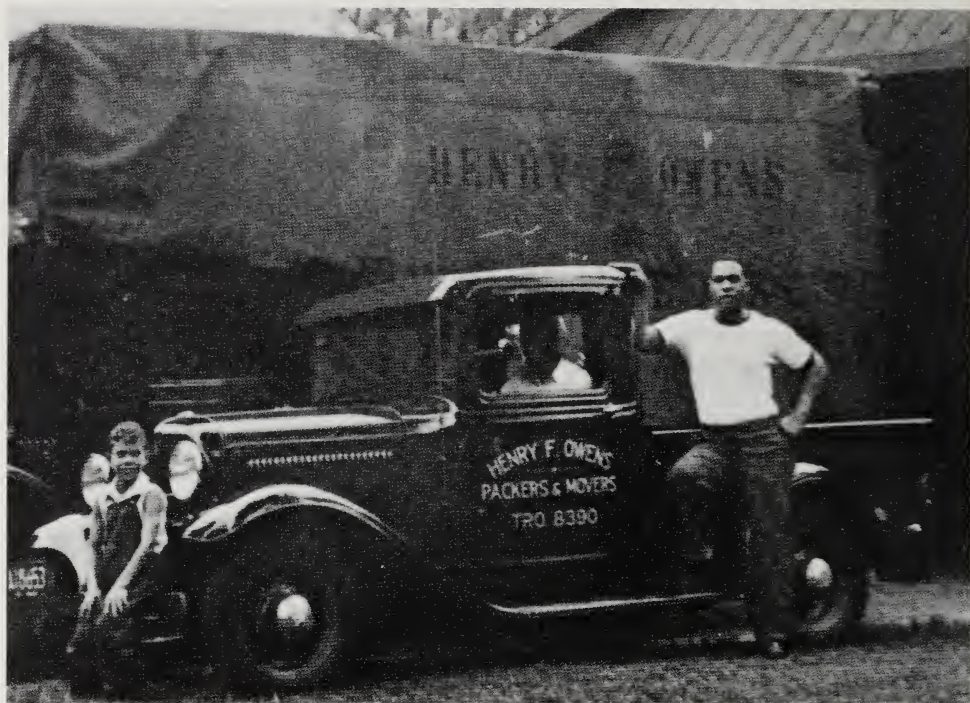


Southern Dining Room

**NEGROES ARE REALLY WAKING UP!!**  
**THINKING** Negroes around Roxbury are now  
 spending their money only in stores owned and  
 operated by Negroes and in other stores  
 where they find colored help  
 Very few Negroes are now spending their hard-earned  
 dollars in places where they haven't a chance  
 to secure jobs for themselves  
 or their children

Front page ad in *Boston Chronicle*, 1932





Henry Owens

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**South End Electric Company**

In 1923 Leon G. Lomax founded the South End Electric Company in Roxbury, a firm which stayed in business until the early 1970s. Lomax also organized and became president of the Greater Boston Negro Business and Trade Association in 1938.

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**Henry Owens Movers**

Henry Owens Movers was founded in 1927 in Cambridge, becoming one of the major moving and rigging companies in New England still in business today. Henry Owens, Sr., founded his business with a horse and buggy, peddling ice to his neighbors and carting baggage to and from Boston's piers for the large Italian immigrant population in his Cambridge neighborhood.

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**Poro School and Beauty Shoppe**

From 1927 to 1942 a branch of the Poro School and Beauty Shoppe on Massachusetts Avenue, established and managed by E. Alice Taylor, was one of the Black-owned firms in New England. The school had an annual enrollment of 150 students, and the Beauty Shoppe had a staff of 15 professional beauticians. Mrs. Taylor founded The Professional Hairdressers Association of Massachusetts and became its first president.

The J. B. Johnson Funeral Home, established in 1932, and the Davis Funeral Home, established in 1935 — both still in business — are two of the oldest continuously performing establishments providing services to Black families in Boston.

## Oldest Funeral Homes

James Guilford, who owned and operated a barbering business in lower Roxbury from 1934 to 1973 (Dunbar Barbers until 1945 and Jimmy Guilford's Men's Hair Salon until 1973), was state president of the Associated Master Barbers of Massachusetts, which included both white and Black barbers.

## Leader in Barber Business

For 50 years, from 1938-1988, Clarence Noel Jackson (1911-1988), Reg. Ph., owned and operated the Douglass Square Pharmacy in lower Roxbury. "Dr. Jackson," as he was called, a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 1937, provided a community institution for health care throughout difficult periods of change in the lower Roxbury neighborhood.

## "Doctor Jackson," Pharmacist



James Guilford, barber; customer Sugar Ray Robinson,  
World Middleweight Champion, 1964



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### **Grimes Oil Company**

Calvin M. Grimes, Sr., founded Grimes Oil Company in Boston in 1940. Now operated by Calvin M. Grimes, Jr., this 50-year-old business started with one ice delivery truck, once serviced more than 3,000 residential customers, and now delivers gasoline, fuel oil, diesel fuel, and residual oil to commercial customers only. Grimes Oil is the nation's 25th largest minority-owned business.

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### **Master Brick Masons**

When it comes to using bricks and mortar for the development and beautification of the community, the brothers Percy and John Gray have contributed their skills as master brick masons to the buildings of Roxbury and the city for more than 50 years.



In the 1940s and 1950s, at the corner of Massachusetts and Columbus Avenues, stood a landmark in the history of jazz, the Hi-Hat Club. (The new Harriet Tubman House now occupies the site.) Originally it was a supper club patronized by whites listening to “white” music, but the music became “Black” and Black clientele followed. Outside a doorman with top hat, cape, and cane, greeted customers. Situated on two levels, the downstairs served full barbecue dinners, while the upstairs lounge offered cool drinks and hot jazz. Most of the leaders of Black Boston patronized the Hi-Hat. Some of the world’s greatest jazz musicians — Jimmy Rogers, Slam Stewart, the Oscar Peterson Trio, Errol Garner — entertained at the Hi-Hat.

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**Pioneer Club**

The historic Pioneer Club, a semi-private club owned by Shag and Bal Taylor and a landmark in the history of jazz, was a funky after-hours night spot located in a brick, three-story row house at the end of a short alley off Tremont Street (where the new Douglass Plaza now stands). Socially and culturally, it was a retreat where people who valued privacy could relax. Many would dine at Estelle’s or Slade’s across the street, then stroll over to the Pioneer to take in an evening of jazz. The Club began to fill with patrons around 11 p.m., and often musicians played through the night until sunrise. Jazz greats playing in Boston — like Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Stitt, and Errol Garner — would drop in after hours to perform. The Pioneer Club was also a place where informal community politics were discussed, and Black candidates and elected officials met to plan political strategy with Bal and Shag Taylor.

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**First Downtown Clerks**

In the Christmas season of 1945, shoppers at Gilchrist’s brought their gifts for wrapping to a young female employee who stood out among the holiday help. Cynthia Belgrave was the first Black clerk ever hired in a downtown department store in Boston. This hiring came from pressure exercised by Boston’s Urban League “to get into downtown somebody besides elevator operators at Filene’s.” After Christmas eight more Black women, along with Belgrave, were hired as retail clerks at Gilchrist’s.



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**John B. Cruz Construction Company**

The John B. Cruz Construction Co., established in Boston in 1945, has expanded into one of the largest minority-owned construction firms in the U.S. This family-owned and operated business has constructed both housing and commercial complexes to revitalize Boston's Black neighborhoods.

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**Wally's Paradise**

Since 1947, Wally's, originally called Wally's Paradise and still located on Massachusetts Avenue in the South End, has been a landmark jazz club. This neighborhood jazz bar, owned by Joseph Walcott, who is now 95 years old, has played host to nationally known musicians like Errol Garner, Oscar Peterson, Charlie Parker, and Coleman Hawkins. Local performers, such as drummer Alan Dawson and saxophonists Greg Osby and Andy McGhee, all got their start at Wally's where up-and-coming musicians can also ply their musical trade. The Club's Sunday afternoon jazz session is still one of its oldest and richest traditions.

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**Printing Business Pioneer**

Established in 1952, Lester Benn's printing business has served the needs of the Black community for nearly 40 years. Enamored of the art of the printing trade, Lester Benn struggled throughout the 1940s to become an independent printer, acquiring the "bits and pieces" of used machinery and doing "small jobs" to print eventually under the "Benn Banner."



John B. Cruz, Sr., and John B. Cruz, Jr.



Bob "The Chef" Morgan

Bob the Chef's Restaurant has been a popular landmark soul food eating place in Boston for 30 years. Established by Bob "the Chef" Morgan on Columbus Avenue where it stands today, this famous eating place is known for its ham hocks, fried chicken, barbecued spareribs, cornbread, and sweet potato pie. "My first concession in Boston was in a barroom (The Big M) on Massachusetts Avenue — there were only four stools, but the word spread and business grew; now we can seat 150 people at a time," said Morgan in the mid-1980s. Bob the Chef, who died in 1987, will always be remembered standing by his cash register as he took customers' money with a smile, saying, "God bless you . . . so nice to see you and come again."

### **Bob the Chef's Restaurant**

A leading African-American businesswoman in Boston for more than 20 years, Estella V. Crosby owned and operated a dry goods store on Tremont Street. She chaired the annual convention of the National Business League in Boston in 1955, organized the Housewives League, and was active in the League of Women Voters.

### **Leading Businesswoman**

## Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs

A vital force in Boston's business development for more than 30 years, the Boston Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs was organized in 1957 "to create and develop opportunities for African-American women in business and the professions and to protect their interests."

## Stull and Lee, Inc.

The architectural and planning firm of Stull and Lee, Inc., established by Donald L. Stull in 1966, has made a profound impact on the physical environment and landscape of Boston. With co-partner David Lee and a staff of 40 design professionals — architects, planners, and urban designers — Stull and Lee grew from residential design work to major building projects in educational, health care, correctional facilities, office and manufacturing facilities, transit station design, and a variety of urban design and planning commissions. Among the firm's designs are: Roxbury Community College, The Harriet Tubman Center, the town-square concept for the South Station concourse, and the new Ruggles Street (MBTA) station. The firm's Southwest Corridor Urban Design (a linear park running some 4.7 miles through the city) represents the first time in Boston that an architectural rather than an engineering firm has developed an outdoor landscape aesthetic.



Donald Stull (left) and David Lee (right)





In 1967 the United Community Construction Workers, led by Leo Fletcher, became the first Black construction workers' union in Boston.

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### **First Construction Workers' Union**

Now more than 20 years old, Freedom Electronics and Engineering was founded by lawyer and businessman Archie Williams during the height of the civil rights movement in Boston in the 1960s. The firm presently supplies products and services for giant high-tech industries such as Digital Equipment Corporation, Honeywell Information Systems, New England Telephone, and the Gillette Company.

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### **Freedom Electronics and Engineering**

In June 1968 Unity Bank, the first full-service Black bank in Boston, opened its doors for business. Approximately 70 percent of the \$1.2 million in bank assets was raised by subscription in the Black community.

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### **Unity Bank**



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**Black Corporate Presidents**

Black Corporate Presidents of New England, Inc., was formed and incorporated in 1973 by a group of Black manufacturers concerned about the existing barriers which prevented their businesses from full access to public and private sector contract opportunities. Today BCPNE represents a regional constituency and the interest of some 5,000 Black-owned manufacturing and service industries in the New England region.

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**Boston Bank of Commerce**

Incorporated on June 30, 1982, with Juan M. Co-field as its leading founder and president from 1982-83, Boston Bank of Commerce is the only fully insured Black-owned and operated bank in Boston and New England. A successor to Unity Bank and Trust, Boston's first Black-owned Bank, the Boston Bank of Commerce is unique in its outreach and service to religious, academic, social service, health and human service agencies and organizations. Under the leadership of Ronald A. Homer, who became president and chief executive officer in June 1983, a winning investment strategy has been showing an annual growth rate of 30 percent. Commenting on the \$70 million bank with its record of consistent profitability, growth, and service, Homer anticipates "that our most significant contribution to community reinvestment . . . is destined to become a national model for neighborhood revitalization and minority business opportunity." The bank has been named "Bank of the Year" by *Black Enterprise* magazine and "One of New England's Ten Best" by the *Boston Herald*.

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**Top Black Businesses**

In *Black Enterprise* magazine's listings of the top 100 Black companies and the 100 largest Black auto dealers in the United States during the late 1980s, a number of Boston area-based businesses made the lists: B.M.L. Associates (telecommunications); Grimes Oil Company (petroleum products distribution); HII Corporation (construction and real estate development); InPut OutPut Computer Services (computer software and systems integration); J.J.S. Services, Inc. (janitorial services and supplies); Scott and Duncan Co. (architectural woodworking); Apex Construction (office computer furniture and supplies distribution);

and Barron Chevrolet (Danvers), Walton Ford-Volkswagen (Medford), and Westfield Ford (all in auto sales).

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**Top Black Businesses**

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Real estate entrepreneur Richard Taylor was appointed in 1988 to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston; and in 1990 he became Deputy Chairman, both first appointments for an African-American in Boston. The Federal Reserve is "the banker's bank," controlling the money supply of the country. In 1991 Taylor was appointed Secretary of Transportation by Governor William Weld.

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**Secretary of Transportation**

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## Government/Politics

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### 18th Century

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#### Voting Rights for Blacks

Prominent businessman Paul Cuffe used his influence to petition the Massachusetts legislature for voting rights for Blacks and American Indians, which were later granted through court action in 1783.

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### 19th Century

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#### Ward 9 Politicians

From Boston's "old" Ward 9 in the Beacon Hill area, Boston's Black citizens were able to elect 20 Black persons to public office — to the city council, the state legislature, and school committee — during the second half of the 19th century.

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#### First Federal Position

William C. Nell (1816-1874) was appointed a postal clerk in the U.S. Postal System in 1860, becoming the first African-American to hold a federal civilian job in the city.



William Nell



John J. Smith, whose barber shop was an abolitionist rendezvous prior to the Civil War, was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1868 and 1869, and then re-elected in 1872. He was also the first Black to serve on the Boston Common Council in 1878.

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**First on Boston  
Common Council**

Lewis Hayden, a leading 19th-century Black abolitionist who harbored over two-thirds of Boston's fugitive slaves in his Beacon Hill house prior to the Civil War, was elected to the Massachusetts General Court in 1873.

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**Underground Railroad  
Leader**

Four African-Americans served on the Cambridge City Council in the 1800s: J. Milton Clark, 1873; William Stevenson, 1882-83; W. C. Lane, 1883-84; Louis E. Baldwin, 1891-95.

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**Early Cambridge City  
Councilors**



<b>Early Boston City Councilors</b>	<p>The 19th-century African-American members of the Boston City Council were:</p> <p>George L. Ruffin, 1876-77  James W. Pope, 1881  William O. Armstrong, 1885-86  Andrew B. Leattimore, 1887-88  Charles E. Harris, 1889-90  Nelson Gaskins, 1891  Walden Banks, 1892-93  Stanley Ruffin, 1894-95  J. Henderson Allston, 1894-95  Charles H. Hall, 1895.</p>
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<b>Early State Representatives</b>	<p>The 19th-century African-American state representatives were:</p> <p>Edwin G. Walker, 1866  Charles L. Mitchell, 1866  John J. Smith, 1868, 1869, 1872  George L. Ruffin, 1870, 1871  Joshua B. Smith, 1873, 1874  George W. Lowther, 1878, 1879  Julius C. Chappelle, 1883-86  William O. Armstrong, 1887, 1888  Andrew B. Leattimore, 1889, 1890  Charles E. Harris, 1892  Robert T. Teamoh, 1894  William L. Reed, 1896, 1897</p>
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<b>19th-Century Statesman</b>	<p>Julius C. Chappelle had one of the most successful careers in Boston electoral politics of the late 19th century. He was elected to the Republican State Central Committee, the Boston City Council, and the state legislature. He served in the state House of Representatives from 1883 to 1886, the longest continuous tenure of any Black on Beacon Hill until Herbert Loring Jackson of Malden served from 1951 to 1954.</p>
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<b>First City Appointment</b>	<p>The first appointment of an African-American to a city position in Boston appears to have been that of W. W. Bryant, who in 1885 was made deputy sealer of weights and measures.</p>
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<b>Cambridge Office Holder</b>	<p>Clement G. Morgan, a graduate of Harvard Law School, was elected to the Cambridge Common</p>
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Council in 1895. He was later elected a Cambridge Alderman and appointed to the Highway Commission.

Cambridge Office Holder

20th Century

William J. Williams, a lawyer, was the first Black elected to the Chelsea Board of Aldermen. His term was from 1902 to 1906. He also served as a captain in Company L of the State Militia.

Chelsea Alderman

Attorney E. E. Brown was appointed Assistant Health Commissioner for the city of Boston in 1907 by Mayor Fitzgerald, a Democrat. *The Guardian* newspaper called Brown's appointment the "best position any colored man ever had in Boston." The newspaper went on to say, "The appointment of a colored man to such a high-salaried position (\$2,500 a year) displeased all color-prejudiced white politicians." Incoming Mayor Hubbard, a Republican, removed Brown from the job by abolishing the position, saying it was not needed.

Top Position for "Colored Man"

The first Blacks elected to the Massachusetts legislature in the 20th century were William H. Lewis (from Cambridge in 1909) and Lincoln Pope (from Boston in 1956), with Pope being the first Black Democrat to represent Boston in the legislature.

First Massachusetts Legislators

Stewart E. Hoyt, who started as a clerk in the Boston tax collector's office, rose to the position of Deputy Tax Collector for the City in the 1920s, retiring in 1931.

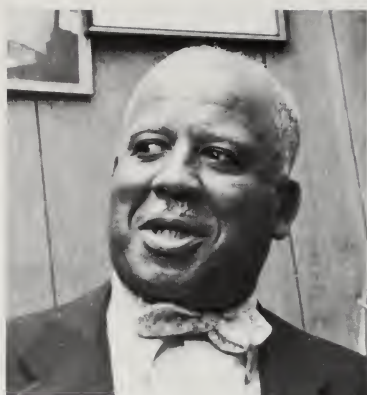
Deputy Tax Collector

William L. Reed was the first Executive Secretary of the Massachusetts Governor's Council, serving from 1924 to 1942.

Secretary of Governor's Council

On April 28, 1936 Julian Rainey was elected an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Helen Whiteman was elected an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention the same year.

National Political Delegates



Balcom Taylor



Silas Taylor

### **Legendary Community Politicians**

From the mid-1920s through the 1950s, brothers Silas F. and Balcom S. Taylor, Registered Pharmacists, championed voter registration, jobs, housing, and political participation for Blacks in Boston, when there were no elected Black officials in city or state government. Their drugstore on Tremont Street (Lincoln Pharmacy) served also as a place for building a community network, “providing a voice” for Black neighborhoods at City Hall and the State House. Silas (Shag) Taylor, who served briefly on the state Parole Board, was the most powerful Democrat in the Black wards of Boston from the 1930s until his death in the late 1950s.

### **20th-Century Statesman**

Herbert L. Jackson became one of the most successful Black politicians in the history of Massachusetts, serving some 30 years in public office from the 1940s to the 1970s. He was first elected in 1945 to a seat on the Malden City Council, where he served until 1950, when he won his first of two terms as a state representative from Malden. After a losing bid for a third term, he was re-elected to the City Council, where he served as president in 1949, 1965, 1971, and 1975. The Council Chambers in Malden are named in honor of Herbert Jackson.

### **20th-Century First**

Lawrence Banks, a Republican, became the first African-American from Boston to serve in the Massachusetts legislature in the 20th century, when he was elected from Ward 9 in 1946. Banks also won election to the Boston City Council in 1949.

In 1950 Beulah H. Hester became the first Black appointed to the Boston Board of Overseers of Public Welfare.

**Public Welfare Overseer**

In 1952 Madeline D. Andrews was elected to the Medford School Committee. She was apparently the first Black woman elected to public office in Massachusetts.

**First Elected  
Black Woman**

Clarence Richard Elam (1923-1985) performed as a pioneering public servant as Assistant Director of Civil Defense for the City of Boston from 1950-52, Executive Secretary of the Governor's Council (1952-56), Chairman of the Boston Licensing Board (1956-74), and Special Assistant to Attorney General Edward W. Brooke (1964-66).

**Pioneering Public Servant**

In 1959 Frank Morris became the first African-American senior manager of a state agency in the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts when he was appointed to the position of director of the State Housing Board. Starting as a junior planner with the Board in 1948, Frank Morris had one of the longest careers — 38 years — of any Black in state government when he retired in 1986 as Special Counsel to the Executive Office of Communities and Development which grew out of the State Housing Board.

**State Housing Board First**



Frank Morris





Edward W. Brooke



Thomas Atkins

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### **First U.S. Senator since Reconstruction**

In 1962 Edward W. Brooke, a Boston attorney, became the first African-American to be elected Attorney General for the Commonwealth. Two years later, in 1964, he became the first African-American elected to the United States Senate since Reconstruction.

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### **Thomas Atkins**

In 1967 Thomas Atkins became the first Black Bostonian to win a city-wide election to the Boston City Council. He served two two-year terms before losing a campaign for mayor in 1971.

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### **Newton Alderman**

Matthew Jefferson was the first Black to serve on the Newton Board of Aldermen. He repeatedly won election to the board in nine city-wide election campaigns after being chosen to join the board in 1968. In all he served as alderman for 20 years, six of those years as president.

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### **Leader in Government and Education**

Paul Parks served as Director of Model Cities under Boston Mayor Kevin White, first Massachusetts Secretary of Education under Governor Frank Sargent, a member of the Board of Appeals in Boston, and president of the Board of Trustees, Boston Public Library.

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Two African-American women have held simultaneously two elected political offices. Sandra Graham of Cambridge served as City Councilor in her city from 1971 to 1989 and served as a state representative in the Massachusetts legislature from 1977 to 1988. Shirley Owens-Hicks, while serving on the Boston School Committee in 1987, also was elected to state representative.

## **Dual Political Roles**

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In 1972 the Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus was founded in an effort to coordinate the efforts of Black elected officials and make them more accountable to the Black community.

## **Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus**

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John Boone served as Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Correction from 1972 to August 1973. He was the first (and only) African-American to hold this position in the 74-year history of the Department.

## **Correction Department First**

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Doris Bunte was the first African-American woman to serve in the Massachusetts legislature. Elected in 1972, she served as state representative until 1985.

## **First Black Woman in Legislature**

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In 1975 Bill Owens became the first African-American elected to the Massachusetts Senate, representing the Second Suffolk District. He served from 1976 to 1982. He was elected to the same seat in 1988 and remains the only African-American in the State Senate. He and Shirley Owens-Hicks also have the distinction of being the first brother-and-sister team to serve in the Massachusetts legislature.

## **First Black State Senator**



Bill Owens



Doris Bunte

Bruce Bolling, Royal Bolling, Jr.,  
and Royal Bolling, Sr. (left to right)



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### **Leading City Official**

Clarence "Jeep" Jones was the first African-American to serve as a Deputy Mayor of Boston in 1976, where he served until 1981 under Mayor Kevin H. White. In 1989 Jones was appointed by Mayor Raymond L. Flynn as Chairman of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, another first for an African-American.

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### **Government Administrator**

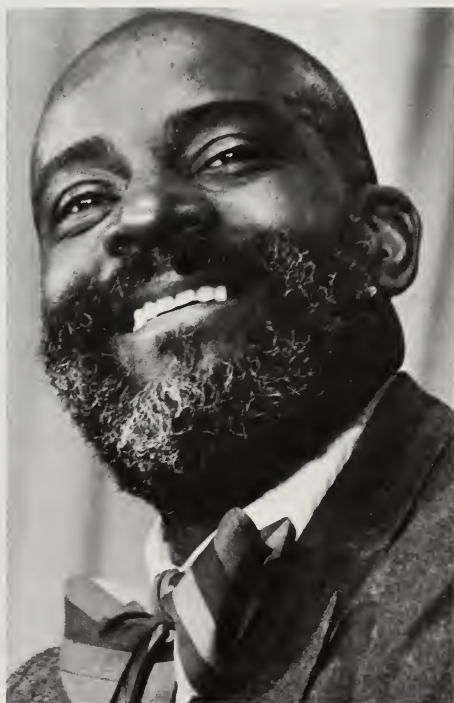
On his way to an affirmative action meeting with the Boston Redevelopment Authority on April 5, 1976, African-American attorney Theodore Landsmark was physically assaulted by anti-busing demonstrators on City Hall plaza. One of the demonstrators swung an American flag at him. Landsmark's flag flogging and resulting injuries became a national symbol of racial intolerance in Boston. At the time of the attack, Landsmark was director of the Contractors Association of Boston. Since that time he has held a succession of key government posts: the first African-American appointed as director of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (1977); director of the Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services (1989); director of the Safe Neighborhoods Program for the city of Boston (1990).

The Bolling family represented a phenomenon unprecedented in Boston politics in the early 1980s, when three members held elective office at the same time — Royal Bolling, Sr., served as state senator, while his son Royal Bolling, Jr., served as state representative, and his son Bruce Bolling served on the Boston City Council. In 1986 Bruce Bolling was elected Council president, a first for an African-American in Boston government.

### **Bolling Family: Political Phenomenon**

In 1983 Mel King changed Boston's political history when he became the first Black mayoral candidate in the city's history to win a preliminary election and run in the general election for control of Boston City Hall. While defeated in the runoff by Ray Flynn, he gathered 30 percent of the general vote and 90 percent of the Black vote. A former five-time elected state representative from Lower Roxbury and the South End, King currently heads MIT's Community Fellows Program. For more than 35 years he and his wife Joyce have been steadfast advocates for community control and improvement in Boston.

### **Mel King**



Melvin King



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**City Treasurer First**

In 1984 George Russell, Jr., became the first African-American to hold the office of City Treasurer, following his appointment by Mayor Raymond L. Flynn.

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**Yancey Makes State Ballot**

In 1986 Boston City Councilor Charles Yancey was the first African-American representing the Democratic Party to secure a position on a statewide ballot in his bid to become State Auditor.

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**Media and Political Strategist**

In 1986 the *Boston Globe* called media and political strategist Joyce Ferriabough the only woman to break into the campaign managers' circle when she guided Charles Yancey's historic run for State Auditor. Regularly quoted in the news media for her views on political trends, especially as they reflect the minority community, Ferriabough has been a participant in a number of firsts. She was Press Secretary/New England for Rev. Jesse Jackson's first run for the presidency in 1984. She helped craft, promote and lobby for the city's linkage legislation, a first for the city of Boston.

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**Creating Political Opportunities**

In 1986 The Black Political Task Force joined forces with the Rainbow Coalition, the Massachusetts Latino Democratic Committee, and the Asian Political Caucus to challenge the redistricting plan put forth by the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Redistricting is the process by which city, state, and federal districts are drawn, based upon shifts in the population. The Task Force charged that the redistricting plan did not reflect the increases in the African-American and Hispanic communities shown in the most recent census. The Task Force also charged that the plan violated the constitutional guarantee of one person/one vote and diluted voter strength by "packing" Blacks in specific areas and "cracking" Hispanics in areas throughout the city (a practice known as gerrymandering). This successful challenge led to the creation of a new district, the Fifth Suffolk District, from which the first Hispanic State Representative, Nelson Merced, was elected.

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Ronald H. Brown, who spent his early childhood in Roxbury and attended the David A. Ellis School, became Chairman of the National Democratic Party in 1989, a historic first for an African-American.

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**Chairman of National  
Democratic Party**

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## Law

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### 18th Century

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#### Slave Sued Master

In 1773 slave Caesar Hendricks took his master to court “for detaining him in slavery”; the all-white jury freed Hendricks and awarded him damages.

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### 19th Century

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#### First Licensed Attorney

Macon B. Allen, who was the first licensed African-American attorney in the United States (he passed the bar exam in Maine in 1844), was the first to practice law in Boston, having been admitted to the Suffolk County, Massachusetts bar in May 1845. He became a Justice of the Peace in 1848 and practiced law in Massachusetts until 1870.

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#### First Attorney to Pass Massachusetts Exam

Robert Morris was the first attorney in Massachusetts to pass the Massachusetts bar examination in 1847.

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#### First Jurors

African-Americans first served as jurors in Massachusetts in 1860.

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#### First Black Lawyer before Supreme Court

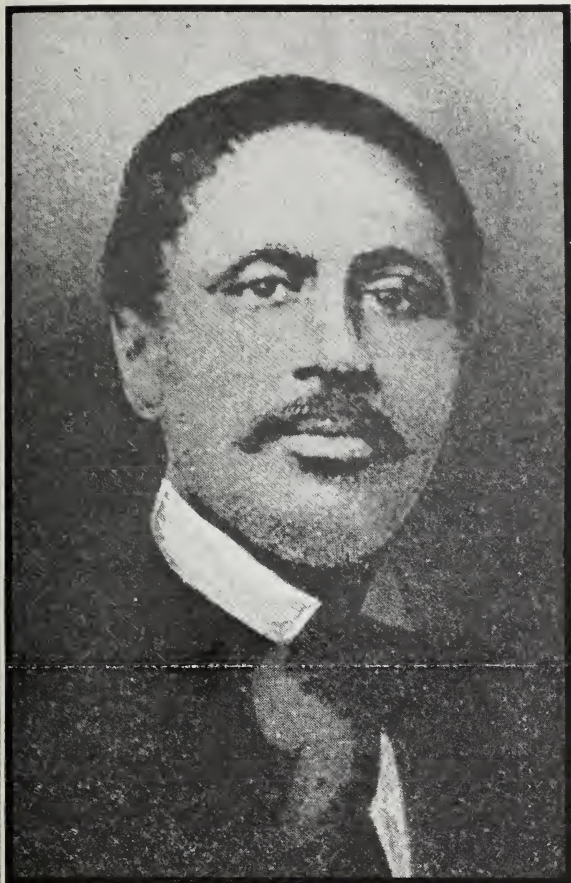
John Sweat Rock (1825-1866), a noted Boston lawyer, became in 1865 the first African-American to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and the first Black person to speak before the U.S. House of Representatives.

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#### Prominent New Bedford Lawyer

Emmanuel Sullavou was a prominent lawyer in New Bedford in the late 1800s. Having graduated from Harvard in 1871, he was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1875. He served on the New Bedford City Council and as a clerk of the district court.

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Robert Morris



John S. Rock

Archibald H. Grimke (1849-1930) was the second African-American to graduate from Harvard Law School (1874). While struggling to establish a law practice in Boston, he started the first Black newspaper in New England, *The Hub*, in 1883. The paper, a voice of protest for Blacks in New England, lasted until 1886. While an alternate delegate to Henry Cabot Lodge at the Republican National Convention in 1884, he became a leader of the Black "independents" in politics, saying, "The Republican party is no longer devoted to the colored man." In 1884 he was appointed by President Cleveland to be the consul at Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. A founder of the NAACP, he was a civil rights leader from the era of slavery until his death on the eve of the Great Depression.

### Early Civil Rights Leader



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**Remarkable Lawyer  
and Dentist**

In remarkable achievements in widely different fields, Hamilton S. Smith not only became the first African-American to receive a law degree from Boston University in 1879, but in 1889 he also received a doctor of dentistry degree from Howard University.

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**First Black Judge**

George L. Ruffin of Boston became the first African-American judge in Massachusetts with his appointment in 1883 to the District Court of Charlestown. He served in this position until his death in 1886. In 1869 he was the first African-American to earn a law degree from Harvard University. In 1984 the Justice George Lewis Ruffin Society was established by Black senior-level criminal justice professionals in Massachusetts, led by Judge Julian Houston. The Society, hosted by Northeastern University, encourages greater understanding between the Black community and criminal justice professionals. A portrait of Judge Ruffin was unveiled at Charlestown District Court in February 1990.

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**20th Century**

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**Founder of Resthaven  
Nursing Home**

Edgar P. Benjamin, an 1894 graduate of Boston University's Law School, established a private practice in civil and criminal law of which he said, "I am sole counsel for many large firms and corporations, and businesses, many of which are white. . . ." In 1927 Benjamin founded Resthaven, a charitable nursing home for the elderly on Fisher Avenue in Roxbury. Today Resthaven Nursing Home is a 260-bed facility carrying on the tradition of community service begun by Edgar P. Benjamin.

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**Outstanding  
Criminal Lawyer**

William H. Lewis (1869-1949), long recognized as one of Boston's outstanding criminal lawyers, was the first African-American to hold the position of Assistant United States Attorney General, appointed by President Taft in 1911.

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William H. Lewis

Attorney John W. Schenck (1869-1962), admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1914, was appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney in Boston in 1920 and held that position until 1933. During that time he handled most of the immigration cases in the Commonwealth.

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**Noted Immigration  
Lawyer**

Henry E. Quarles, Sr., born in Boston in 1906, and a graduate of Suffolk Law School in 1928, is considered "The Dean" of Black lawyers in Boston. He holds the distinction of having the longest legal career — 61 years of practice as an attorney — in Boston. He received an Honorary Doctor of Law from Suffolk in 1979 and was the first Black lawyer to appear in courts in cities and towns outside of Boston and in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

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**"Dean" of Black Lawyers**

In the 1930s Julian Rainey became the first Assistant Corporation Counsel for the city of Boston.

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**First City Lawyer**



Matthew Bullock



Harry J. Elam

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### **First on Parole Board**

In the 1930s Matthew Bullock became the first Black appointed to the Massachusetts Parole Board.

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### **First Black Judge**

In 1948 Bruce Robinson became the first Black appointed to the bench in Massachusetts. He was named Associate Justice of the Boston Juvenile Court by Governor Robert Bradford.

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### **Assistant Attorney General**

Glendora Putnam was the first African-American female lawyer to serve as an assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She served under three state Attorneys General from 1963 to 1969: Edward W. Brooke, Elliot Richardson, and Robert Quinn.

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### **Distinguished Black Judge, Harry J. Elam**

Harry J. Elam became the first Black to serve as a Justice in the more than 300-year history of the Boston Municipal Court when he was appointed in 1971 as an Associate Justice. In 1978 he was the unanimous choice of the full bench of the Supreme Judicial Court to serve a five-year term as Chief Justice of the Boston Municipal Court, again a first for a Black lawyer. In 1979 he founded Project Commitment, in which trial judges bring caring adults into the Boston public schools to provide positive role models for students in an effort to reduce the number of young people that come before the criminal courts. In 1983 Judge Elam was appointed as Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, a position he held until his retirement in 1988.

Joyce London Alexander became the first Black woman in the country appointed as a federal magistrate in Boston when she was named to that post by President Jimmy Carter in 1979.

**First Female Federal  
Magistrate**

David S. Nelson became the first Black federal judge in Massachusetts in 1979.

**First Federal Judge**

Margaret Burnham, the first Black female lawyer to practice in Boston Municipal Court, was also the first African-American woman appointed as associate justice in 1977, a position she held until 1983.

**Two Firsts for Margaret  
Burnham**

In 1989 Rudolph F. Pierce became the first African-American to be elected President of the Boston Bar Association, the oldest local bar association in the nation, founded in 1761 by John Adams.

**President of Boston  
Bar Association**

Wayne A. Budd was nominated for U.S. Attorney by President George Bush in March 1989 and confirmed for the position by the U.S. Senate in September 1989. A native of Springfield, Massachusetts, he was the first African-American president of the Massachusetts Bar Association (1979-80) and headed New England's largest Black-owned law firm before his historic appointment as the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts.

**Wayne A. Budd,  
U.S. Attorney**



Wayne Budd, U.S. Attorney





Attorneys Judith Dilday, Geraldine Hines, and Margaret Burnham

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**First Black  
Female Law Firm**

Attorneys Margaret Burnham, Geraldine Hines, and Judith Dilday established the first Black female law firm in New England in 1989. Located in Boston, Burnham, Hines and Dilday specialize in family law, divorce, wills, custody, and civil and criminal litigation.

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**First Court  
Child Care Center**

The Roxbury District Court Child Care Center was the first court-affiliated drop-in care center in New England for families who must bring their children with them when they have court business. Roxbury District Court Judge Julian T. Houston, now a Superior Court judge, worked for four years to bring his idea of such a center to fruition in May 1989. Parents with court business and no child care arrangements or with children waiting to appear in court proceedings can use the center free of charge. Initial funding for the center start-up and space renovation came from public and private sources, including Bank of Boston. Associated Day Care Services of Metropolitan Boston developed and now operates the center, located in the Dudley Branch Library, with Massachusetts Department of Social Services and United Way funds.

With his election in 1990, Barack H. Obama became the first Black president of the *Harvard Law Review* in its 103-year history. *The Review* is managed and edited by 78 student editors selected from Harvard's 1,600 law students. In its first 85 years, *The Review* has had three Black editors: Charles Houston, a civil rights attorney; William T. Coleman, Secretary of Transportation under President Gerald Ford; and William Hastie, a federal appeals judge.

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*Harvard Law Review*  
President

In March 1990 Judith Dilday became the first African-American president of the prestigious Women's Bar Association. Just the year before she had helped establish the first Black female law firm in New England, Burnham, Hines and Dilday.

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**Women's Bar Association**  
President

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## Journalism

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### 19th Century

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#### First Black Newspaper

Boston's first Black newspaper of record before the Civil War was the *Emancipator and Free American*, founded in 1842 and closed in 1844.

#### *Liberator*

From 1832 to 1865 the *Liberator* was a powerful anti-slavery and "underground" newspaper for Black citizens. Founded and published by the fiery white abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison, the paper had Black reporters and columnists.

#### Black Newspaper Publisher

In 1838 Benjamin Roberts (who worked for *The Liberator* under William Lloyd Garrison) established the *Anti-Slavery Herald*, intended to be an anti-slavery journal by and for Blacks in Boston. Only a few issues were printed. In 1853 Roberts tried again establishing a Black paper called *Self Elevator*.



William Lloyd Garrison

William C. Nell of Boston, an early writer-reporter for the *Liberator*, was also a pioneering Black historian, having written *Services of the Colored Americans in the Wars 1776 and 1812* (1852) and *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution with Sketches of Several Distinguished Colored Persons to Which Is Added a Brief Survey of the Condition and Prospects of Colored Americans* (1855).

**Pioneering Black  
Historian**

Lillian Lewis was the first African-American woman journalist in Boston. In the 1880s, she wrote for *The Advocate*, a Black community newspaper. She then went to *The Boston Herald*, writing under the name of Bert Islew, scrambling the letters of her last name to disguise the fact that she was a woman, as female journalists were “frowned upon” by society.

**First Female Journalist**

J. Gordon Street was a journalist for three of Boston’s white newspapers in the 1880s: the *Boston Beacon*, the *Boston Evening Record*, and *The Boston Herald*. Critical of the white American press’s neglect of discrimination faced by Blacks in the late 19th century, he established a Black newspaper, *The Boston Courant*, as an equal rights paper in 1890.

**Founder of Equal Rights  
Newspaper**

Bob Teamoh was perhaps the first African-American reporter for a white newspaper in Boston, having obtained a staff position in 1890 with *The Boston Daily Globe*. He was elected to the state legislature in 1894.

**Early Black Reporter**

The *Afro-American Press and Its Editors*, the *Boston Co-Operator*, *The Boston Leader*, *The Advocate*, the *Courant*, and *The Boston Observer* were early Black newspapers in Boston during the 1880s and 1890s.

**Early Black Newspapers**

**20th Century**

*The Colored American Magazine*, the first significant Black periodical to appear in Boston in the 20th century, was started in Boston in May 1900

**Colored American  
Magazine**



Of One Blood; or, The Hidden Self, by Miss Hopkins, Begins in This Number

# THE COLORED AMERICAN MAGAZINE

15 CENTS A NUMBER

NOVEMBER, 1902

\$1.50 A YEAR.

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, SCIENCE,  
MUSIC, ART, RELIGION, FACTS, FICTION AND TRADITIONS OF  
THE NEGRO RACE.



Cover of *The Colored American Magazine*, November 1902

by the Colored Cooperative Publishing Company. It was "devoted to Literature, Science, Music, Art, Religion, Facts, Fiction, and Traditions of the Negro race."

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*Colored American  
Magazine*

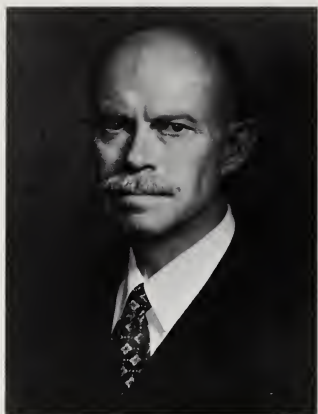
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The *Boston Guardian* newspaper, a major 20th-century civil rights publication, was founded in Boston in 1901 by William Monroe Trotter, who published the newspaper until his death in 1934. For the next 23 years (1934-1957), Trotter's sister, Maude Trotter Steward, and her husband, Dr. Charles Steward, edited and published the paper, keeping alive the spirit of the Black news medium at a great sacrifice.

*Boston Guardian*



William Monroe Trotter



George W. Forbes

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### Writer on Race Politics

During the first quarter of the 20th century George W. Forbes (1864-1927) was an important journalist for national race politics. From 1893 to 1903, he edited the *Boston Courant*, one of Boston's early Black newspapers. He helped start the *Boston Guardian*, founded and published by William M. Trotter in 1901. He wrote the "flaming and scorching" editorials for *The Guardian* denouncing Booker T. Washington. Leaving *The Guardian* in 1904, he edited the *African Methodist Episcopal Review*. Forbes contributed articles on race relations and Black history to the *Springfield Republican* and the *Boston Transcript* and did book reviews for the NAACP's *Crisis* magazine.

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### Largest Negro Weekly Newspaper

The *Boston Chronicle*, from 1920 to 1967, was "New England's largest Negro Weekly Newspaper." Published and edited by Alfred Haughton with William Harrison as Associate Editor, this Black community newspaper covered local, state-wide, regional, national, and international news of people, places, and events.

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### Eminent Foreign Correspondent

William Worthy, Jr., born in Boston in 1921 and educated in its public schools, served as an eminent and significant foreign correspondent and columnist for the *Baltimore Afro-American* from 1951 to 1980; as a special CBS News correspondent in China, Africa, and the Soviet Union between 1955-57; and as a Nieman Fellow in journalism at Harvard University during 1956-57. Worthy is still active as a free-lance journalist and lecturer.



William Worthy

WILD Radio has been on the air since 1953 and in 1972 became the only urban contemporary radio station owned and operated by African-Americans, the Sheridan Broadcasting Company. In 1980, African-American media entrepreneur Kendell Nash purchased the station from Sheridan and has been its owner and president since that time.

### WILD Radio

Gretchen Jackson was the first African-American woman to have a sponsored and sustained daytime radio program in Boston from 1953 to 1961. As a disc jockey and talk-show interviewer, she was heard first on WBOS and later on WBMS.

### First on Radio

In 1954 George Forsyth became the first African-American reporter to be hired by the *Boston Traveler*, the afternoon paper owned by the *Boston Herald*. Beginning as a street reporter, he became a feature writer and drama and entertainment critic. In 1968 he joined the staff of WHDH-TV as an on-air reporter, transferring to WHDH-radio in 1972. In 1975 he moved to public affairs with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Boston. This pioneering Black journalist was born in Roxbury, graduated from English High School, and received his degree in journalism from Boston University after serving in World War II.

### Newspaper/Radio/TV Pioneer



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**Newspaper Professional**

Dexter D. Eure, Sr., completed 25 years of service at *The Boston Globe* in 1989. He had started as an assistant to the manager of circulation in 1963 and five years later became an assistant to the editor for urban affairs. For two years he was the only Black American in Boston with a weekly column. Later he organized the *Globe's* Community Relations Department to improve the paper's coverage of Black people, their viewpoints, and events in the Black community, becoming its first director. Eure was also the first *Globe* employee to join the paper's contributions committee, which became The Globe Foundation, in which he now serves as a director.

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***Bay State Banner***

*The Bay State Banner*, Boston's African-American newspaper founded in 1965 and published by Melvin Miller, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1990.

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**20 Years or More  
in Journalism**

An impressive roster of journalists have "made news" on the Boston scene for more than 20 years. Among them: Robert (Bob) Jordan, columnist and editorial writer with the *Boston Globe* and the first African-American elected to head the *Globe's* 1,200 member employees' union in 1989; Sarah Ann Shaw and Walter Sanders, general assignment reporters at WBZ-TV; WGBH-TV and WBZ-radio talk show host Lovell Dyett; Gary Armstrong, general assignment reporter at Channel 7; and Luix Overbea, formerly a writer for *The Christian Science Monitor* and now a TV show host for the *Monitor*. Others achieving career success in journalism include Channel 5's anchor Jim Boyd, as well as Carmen Fields of Channel 2, and Tanya Hart, formerly with WBZ-TV and more recently with the new and successful Black Entertainment Network. Behind the scenes for some 20 years have been cameramen Richard Chase at Channel 4; Therman Toon at Channel 7; and, at Channel 5, Donnat Mitchell and Bob Wilson (formerly with Channel 2). In the competitive field of journalism, their longevity is a significant career accomplishment for these African-Americans.



Liz Walker



Melvin Miller

“Say Brother,” produced by WGBH-TV (Channel 2) for the past 20 years, is the longest running television show targeted to the African-American and minority communities in Boston. “Urban Update” (formerly “Black News”) on WHDH (Channel 7) is a close second with a nearly 18-year on-air history.

### **Long-Running TV Programs**

Janet Langhart was the first African-American woman to host a daytime TV talk and variety show in Boston. Between 1973 and 1978 she co-hosted the Good Morning Show, later named the Good Day Show, with Jack Willis on WCVB-TV, Channel 5.

### **First Talk Show Host**

WNEV-TV (now WHDH-TV, Channel 7) in Boston was the first major television station in the country to have Black people as majority owners when, between 1981 and 1986, Bertram Lee, Ruth Batson, Thomas Brown, Henry Hampton, Joyce Fredkin, Melvin Miller, and Barron Martin were major stockholders.

### **Former Owners of Channel 7**

In 1982 Liz Walker became the first African-American in Boston’s TV history to anchor a prime time weekly newscast. She co-hosts the 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. newscasts on WBZ-TV (Channel 4).

### **Prime Time First**

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**TV Executive First**

When Donna Latson Gittens was named vice president of community programming for WCVB-TV in 1983, she became the first African-American in the history of local television to assume this executive position and one of a relatively few in the nation.

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# Military Service

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## 18th Century

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Among 101 members recruited into Captain Thomas Cheyney’s Massachusetts militia company for an expedition into Canada in 1747 were three Blacks, listed as Will, Cuffee, and Samuel. (During slavery, slaves and even ex-slaves sometimes did not have surnames, or were not referred to by whites by their surnames.)

**Three Blacks  
in 1747 Militia**

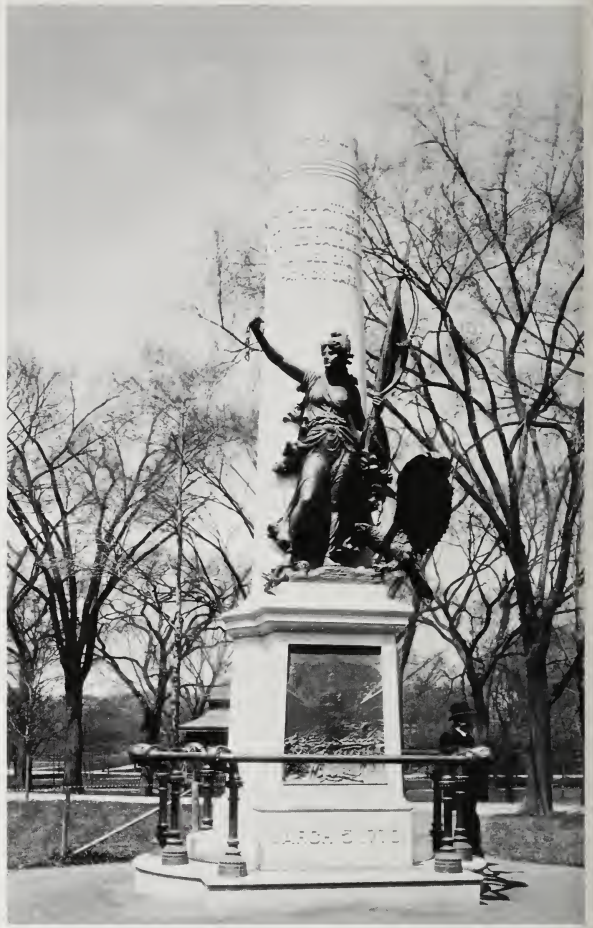
Barzillai Lew of Cambridge, who had been a member of the Massachusetts fighting unit during the French and Indian War of 1760, was one of the full seven-year veterans of the American Revolution. He directly served General George Washington and later headed an all-Black unit in Rhode Island during the final years of the Revolution.

**Served General Washington**

Crispus Attucks, an ex-slave from Framingham, was the first to die in the Boston Massacre (1770), which some historians mark as the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. Attucks led a small group of colonists to a British garrison on King Street in Boston. One of the British soldiers panicked and fired. Attucks was the first to fall. In 1851 Boston Black leaders William C. Nell, Charles Remond, Lewis Hayden, and Joshua B. Smith petitioned the state legislature for the erection of a monument in memory of Attucks. Thirty-seven years later, in 1888, their request was honored when a monument to the victims of the massacre was erected on Boston Common, where it stands today.

**Crispus Attucks**





Crispus Attucks statue of the Boston Massacre

### **Black Minutemen**

Peter Salem of Framingham, Job Potomea and Is-  
aiah Barjonah of Stoneham, Cuff Whitmore of  
Cambridge, Prince of Brookline, and Pompey of  
Braintree were among the Blacks in greater Boston  
who joined the Minutemen before the battle of  
Lexington, April 19, 1775. Salem is remembered  
for fatally shooting British officer Major Pitcairn  
during the Battle of Bunker Hill.

### **Bucks of America**

During the American Revolutionary War, the  
Bucks of America, commanded by George Mid-  
dleton, a fiery Black resident of Boston, was one  
of two all-Black units. The Bucks of America were  
hailed throughout the Commonwealth for their  
bravery and performance at the Battle of Bunker  
Hill in June 1775.

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## 19th Century

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Richard Seavers, a Black Boston seaman who entered the British navy prior to the outbreak of the War of 1812, refused to fight against the United States and was therefore sentenced to England's Dartmoor Prison.

**Refused to Fight  
Against the U.S.**

There were two all-Black units, the Massasoit Guards and the Liberty Guards in Boston in the 1850s, but they were not attached to the militia of the State because there was opposition "to there being any Colored men belonging to the State Militia." Many of these men eventually joined the Massachusetts regiments that fought in the Civil War battles.

**Two All-Black  
Fighting Units**

The 54th Massachusetts Regiment was the first Black unit organized in the North during the Civil War. Led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, member of a prominent white abolitionist family, this unit displayed heroism unsurpassed by any fighting group, North or South, most notably during the

**54th Massachusetts  
Regiment**



The gallant charge of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment



Memorial to the 54th Massachusetts  
Regiment on the Boston Common



assault on Fort Wagner in Charleston, S.C. An imposing bas-relief sculpture by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the *54th Regiment Memorial*, stands opposite the State House at Beacon and Park Streets. The heroic soldiers memorialized on the monument are: Lewis Clark, William H. Morris, Henry Albert, Charles Van Allen, John W. Winslow, Lewis C. Green, Samuel Sufshay, James Buchanan, William Wilson, Thomas R. Ampey, John Hall, Joseph D. Wilson, Jason Champaign, Cyrus Krunkleton, George Vanderpool, William Brady, Charles M. Holloway, William Thomas, Henry F. Burghardt, Abraham Brown, John Tanner, Andrew Clark, Thomas Bowman, Charles S. Gamrell, Edward Williams, Henry Craig, Lewis J. Locard, Robert McJohnson, Cornelius Watson, Josephus Curry, Charles E. Nelson, Franklin Willis, Cornelius Price, William Edgerly, Elisha Burkett, John Miller, Richard M. Foster, Albert Evans, Augustus Lewis, Anthony Scheneck, William S. Everson, Samuel Ford, Henry King, Willis J. Smith, Henry Dennis, William Henry Harrison II, John H. Johnson, Edward Darks, Edward Hines, James P. Johnson, Benjamin Hogan, and George E. Jackson. The 54th Regiment was recently portrayed in the film "Glory."

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**54th Massachusetts  
Regiment**

Sergeant William Carney of New Bedford, a member of the famed 54th Massachusetts Regiment during the Civil War, was the first African-American awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery at the battle of Fort Wagner in July 1863. The U.S. flag he saved during the battle still hangs in the Hall of Flags at the State House in Boston.

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**Congressional Medal of  
Honor Winner**

The 55th Massachusetts Regiment commanded by Colonel Hallowell of Boston acquitted itself valiantly during many Civil War battles, particularly in the battle of Honey Hill in South Carolina, where its determined resistance to advancing southern forces saved the lives of numerous Federal troops. In 1986, 19 skeletons unearthed in South Carolina were determined to be the remains of men of the Massachusetts 55th. The remains were re-interred in a special Memorial Day service on May 30, 1989, in Beaufort, South Carolina.

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**55th Massachusetts  
Regiment**



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**Black Nurse in Civil War**

Susie King Taylor (1848-19?), who distinguished herself as a nurse with the Union forces during the Civil War, moved to Boston in 1874 to work as a laundress. In 1886 she helped organize Corps 67 of the Boston Branch of the Women's Relief Corps, the auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, assuming the presidency in 1893. In 1896 she identified many veterans living in Boston. In 1902 she published her autobiography in Boston entitled, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp: With the 33rd United States Colored Troops*.

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**20th Century**

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**Heroic Soldier**

Sergeant William E. Carter (1858-1918), for whom the Carter Playground in Boston's South End is named, served in the Spanish-American War, the Massachusetts National Guard from 1899 to 1917, and in World War I, where he was killed in action in October 1918.

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**Head of Massachusetts  
Commandery**

In 1906 James H. Wolff, a lawyer and Civil War veteran, was elected head of the Massachusetts Commandery of the Grand Army of the Republic, a largely white organization.

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**Early Career Officer**

Colonel Frank M. Snowden (1885-1947) of Boston joined the U.S. Army in 1907 and rose through the ranks, in an era when few Blacks became officers, to become a colonel. After leaving the service in 1945 he served as civilian executive of the First Service Command (U.S. Army) in Boston.

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**World War I Lieutenants**

When the 17th Provisional Training Regiment at Des Moines, Iowa, graduated 278 Blacks as Army lieutenants at the beginning of World War I, eleven of the graduates were from Massachusetts and two of them, Oliver Lewis and Edward Dugger, were African-Americans from Roxbury. Edward Dugger helped to organize and gain official recognition for a Black Massachusetts National Guard unit, the 372nd Infantry, after his return from fighting in France and his discharge from the Army at the end of the war.

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Edward O. Gourdin sworn in by Gov. Foster Furcolo, 1957

Edward O. Gourdin commanded the 372nd Regiment during World War II and was commander of ground defense at Pearl Harbor. After the war he served as a member of the Secretary of War's Discharge Review and later as Acting Judge Advocate of the Massachusetts National Guard. He later became a judge in the Roxbury District Court and a member of the Massachusetts Judicial Court.

Royal Bolling, Sr., was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, four battle stars, and the third highest military award for valor, the Silver Star, as the result of his outstanding service during the 92nd Infantry Division's campaign in Italy during World War II.



Colonel Frank M. Snowden

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### **Commander at Pearl Harbor**

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### **Purple Heart Recipient**



David L. Ramsay

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### **Valiant Navy Admiral**

Gerald E. Thomas of Natick and Boston rose to become a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy. His first command was in 1962 aboard the USS *Imperious*, an ocean minesweeper operating in the western Pacific. He also commanded the Destroyer Squadron NINE and the Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE. Thomas's medals and awards include the Navy Occupation Service Medal with Europe Clasp, The National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, The Armed Services Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam), and the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars.

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### **Air Hero in Vietnam**

David L. Ramsay, born and raised in Boston, a graduate of English High School and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, rose to become a captain in the U.S. Air Force. The recipient of many military honors, including the Air Force's highest award, the Distinguished Flying Cross, he died in battle while piloting a fighter jet in Vietnam in 1970. In 1973, a decade before the nation unveiled its first monument to the Vietnam war dead, a group of Roxbury veterans named Boston's only Black VFW post at 54 Woodrow Avenue in Dorchester for Ramsay. Located at the corner of Washington and Ball Streets in lower Roxbury, near Melnea Cass Boulevard, the David L. Ramsay Park has been established in his memory.

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### **Rear Admiral in U.S. Navy**

Wendell Norman Johnson of Boston rose to the rank of Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy in 1983 and was Commander (1987-1989) of the U.S. Naval Base in Charleston, South Carolina, the third largest naval base in the United States.

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# Religion

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## 19th Century

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While Black people in Boston attended white churches after the American Revolution, increasing incidents of racial discrimination moved them to request the use of Faneuil Hall for religious meetings. Permission was granted in 1789 and the non-denominational prayer services led to the establishment of the first independent Black church group in Boston in 1805, the African Baptist Church.

**Church in Faneuil Hall**

In December 1806 Rev. Thomas Paul (who had been an “exhorter” of scripture passages since age sixteen) formally organized and became the first minister of the first Black church in Boston at the African Meeting House on Beacon Hill.

**First Black Church**

Rev. Leonard Grimes, who became the minister of Twelfth Baptist Church in 1848, led this historic church through the turbulent years of anti-slavery (1850-1865), serving the church until his death in 1873. Established in 1840, Twelfth Baptist is 150 years old.

**Builder of the  
Twelfth Baptist  
Church**

Bishop James A. Healy, born of mixed parentage on a Georgia plantation, served as a priest in Boston’s Irish immigrant neighborhoods in the 1850s. He was named Chancellor of the Boston Archdiocese in 1855 and Bishop of the Portland (Maine) Diocese in 1875.

**Catholic Bishop**

Rev. John Sella Martin, who served as pastor of the Joy Street Baptist Church (African Meeting House) around 1859, often served as guest preacher at the Tremont Temple, a mostly white

**Preacher at Tremont Temple**



## Preacher at Tremont Temple

congregation. He addressed worshippers at the Temple on January 1, 1863, when news of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation reached Boston. In 1861 he had met with Lincoln to oppose the sending of ex-slaves back to Africa.



Rev. Thomas Paul



Rev. Peter Randolph

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In 1871 ex-slaves from Virginia, led by Rev. Peter Randolph, founded Ebenezer Baptist Church, which celebrated 100 years of service in Boston in 1981.

### **Ex-Slave Founded Church**

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Myrtle Baptist Church in Newton, founded in 1874, and St. John's Baptist Church in Woburn, founded in 1886, are the oldest Black churches in suburban Boston.

### **Oldest Suburban Churches**

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In 1894, at the Church of St. Augustine, Oscar Lieber Mitchell was the first African-American ordained into the priesthood of the Episcopal Church in Boston.

### **First Black Episcopal Priest**

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## **20th Century**

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Rev. John H. Dorsey, the second African-American priest in the American Catholic Church, celebrated Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston's South End on August 17, 1902. *The Pilot* said of his stay in Boston: "This young priest's visit to Boston has benefitted all classes." The *Guardian*, Boston's Black newspaper, said: "The Rev. Father Dorsey was received with much enthusiasm by the Catholic people of this city."

### **Celebrant at Holy Cross Cathedral**

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The Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin, located in lower Roxbury, was founded by Black Episcopalians in 1908. In 1981, after 73 years as a mission church of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, it became an independent church within the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

### **Early Episcopalians**





St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church

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**St. Cyprian's  
Episcopal Church**

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church was the first church built in Roxbury by Black people. Serving as a haven for immigrants from the West Indian islands in the early 1900s, St. Cyprian's was established in 1913. The cornerstone of its present building on Tremont Street was laid in 1923 and the church was dedicated in 1924.

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**Peoples Baptist Church**

Over \$130,000 for missionary and educational programs was raised by Rev. David S. Klugh of Peoples Baptist Church between 1918 and 1930.

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**Malcolm X**

Malcolm X, formerly Malcolm Little (1925-1965), was one of the most fiery, controversial leaders of his time and one of the major Black leaders of the 20th century. Growing up in Boston during the 1940s, he became involved in criminal activities

which landed him a ten-year prison sentence. While in prison, he joined the Black Muslims. Paroled in 1952, he helped found the first Nation of Islam Temple (Temple 11 on Intervale Street) in Boston in 1954. Malcolm X was a world-renowned and respected defender of Black rights and promoter of Black self-empowerment.

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**Malcolm X**

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Dr. Howard Thurman, appointed Dean of the Chapel at Boston University, became the first African-American in the country to serve as an administrative dean and spiritual leader at a predominantly white university. He served in this position from 1955 to 1965. A distinguished preacher and religious thinker, he shared insight into the religious experience of African-Americans with a body of books, essays, poetry, and sound recordings that crossed the boundaries of race and religion.

**Leading Theologian**

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A jazz concert of sacred music by the legendary Duke Ellington and his orchestra was performed at Union Methodist Church in July 1966, the first time a jazz performance had been held in a Boston church.

**First Jazz Concert  
in Boston Church**

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The Rev. John M. Burgess of Boston became the first African-American diocesan Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States in 1968.

**First Black  
Episcopal Bishop**

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Rev. Howard Thurman







Minister Louis Farrakhan



Rev. Richard Owens

### **Nation of Islam Leader**

Minister Louis Farrakhan, raised in Roxbury and a 1950 graduate of English High School, has been the national leader of the Nation of Islam since 1977, following the death of the founder of the Nation, Elijah Muhammad. While viewed by some as controversial, Minister Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam have been outspoken proponents of economic self-help and self-determination for African-Americans, thereby making an important contribution to the economic empowerment of "people of color." In Boston, Minister Don Muhammad continues this tradition as the leader of the Nation and is a recognized and respected advocate for African-Americans in Boston.

### **Longest Tenure for a Black Minister**

In 1980 Rev. Richard M. Owens completed 43 years of pastoring the historic Peoples Baptist Church, giving him the longest tenure for a Black minister in Boston's history. He was the first Black elected President of the American Baptist Convention of Massachusetts in 1969.



Charles Street AME Church, Charles Street, Beacon Hill, in the 19th century

In 1983 Charles Street A.M.E. Church celebrated its 150th anniversary. Founded in 1833 by Boston's 19th-century Black community on Beacon Hill, it moved to its present site in upper Roxbury in 1939, the last Black church to move out of the Beacon Hill area.

### **Charles Street A.M.E. Church**

In 1988 Columbus Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church celebrated its 150th anniversary. Moving to its present site on Columbus Avenue in 1903, it was the scene of the famous "Boston Riot" in July 1903, when Boston's militant equal rights leader William Monroe Trotter and Booker T. Washington, the conservative educator from the South, disagreed on a human rights strategy for Black Americans.

### **Scene of "Boston Riot"**



Rev. Barbara C. Harris

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### **First Female Bishop**

The Reverend Barbara C. Harris was elected Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts in September 1988 and was consecrated bishop in February 1989. She was the first woman, Black or white, to be elected a bishop in the Anglican Communion.

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### **Rev. Michael E. Haynes**

Rev. Michael E. Haynes, installed as Senior Pastor of the Twelfth Baptist Church on October 24, 1965, on the 125th anniversary of the historic church, has served in that capacity for 25 years. In addition to his ministry, he served 17 years on the state Parole Board and in the 1970s as a state representative from Roxbury. Currently he is a member of the Fair Housing Commission.



The number of Black churches in Boston grew from two in 1830 to five by 1850. One was the Free Church, later named Tremont Temple, established in 1836 as an integrated church protesting segregated seating in Boston's white churches. Today there are over 90 churches in Boston that "identify with the African-American ethnic group."

## 90 Black Churches

Rev. David T. Shannon became the first African-American to head the 184-year-old Andover Newton Theological School in Newton in 1991. This school is the nation's oldest Protestant graduate school of theology.

## Theological School President



Rev. Michael E. Haynes



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## Science/Technology/Medicine

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### 18th Century

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#### **Slave Introduces Smallpox Vaccination**

The ravages of smallpox were lessened in the 1700s because Onesimus, a slave to Cotton Mather in Boston, introduced an African vaccination practice that had made his body immune to the smallpox virus. Dr. Zabdiel Boylston of Boston inoculated some 240 people, following Onesimus's description of infecting healthy people to establish an immune reaction to the virus; only six came down with smallpox. During the American Revolutionary War this method of inoculation was used to prevent soldiers from contracting the disease.

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### 19th Century

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#### **Inventor of Whaling Harpoon**

Lewis Temple (c. 1810-1854), a blacksmith in New Bedford from 1830 to 1854, invented and manufactured a whaling harpoon in 1848 that has been referred to as "the single most important invention in the history of whaling." The Temple Toggle, as it was called, became the standard whale harpoon, and 13,000 were manufactured between 1848 and 1868. It is credited with increasing significantly the number of whales caught and with adding to the economic development of New England during the region's whaling period.

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#### **Master Shipbuilder**

John Mashow (1805-1893) was a master shipbuilder in New Bedford from 1840 to 1860. Contributing greatly to the U.S. maritime industry and to maritime architecture, he is credited with drafting and modeling some 100 ocean vessels, supervising the construction of some 60 whale and merchant vessels, and building more than 25 schooners.

Daniel Laing and Isaac H. Snowden of Boston and Martin R. Delany of Pittsburgh, in 1850, were the first Blacks admitted to Harvard Medical School. All three were dismissed, however, in 1851, when white students protested their presence; and the Dean of the medical school felt that "this experiment" proved "that intermixing of the white and Black races . . . is distasteful to a large portion of the class and injurious to the interests of the school."

**Barred from  
Harvard Medical School**

In 1854 J. V. De Grasse (1825-1868) became the first Black physician admitted to the Massachusetts Medical Association.

**Medical First**

Dimock Community Health Center in the Roxbury section of Boston is the oldest health facility in the city oriented to the care of Black and low-income people. Founded in 1863 as the New England Hospital for Women and Children to provide medical training for white women, the hospital also included in its mission the provision of health care for low-income residents. In 1879 Mary Eliza Mahoney became the first African-American nurse in America when she graduated from this institution. Renamed Dimock Community Health Center in 1969, this 127-year-old hospital, presently directed by Jackie Jenkins Scott, is a \$7.5 million comprehensive health and human service operation. Through preventive, diagnostic, and treatment programs, Dimock has enhanced the quality of life for ethnic minority residents for more than 20 years. The Center also offers low-cost space to 13 other nonprofit institutions, including centers for day care and job training.

**Dimock Community  
Health Center**

The first African-American female graduate of a medical school was Rebecca Lee, who received an M.D. degree from the New England Female Medical College in Boston in 1864.

**M.D. Degree for Black Woman**

Mary Eliza Mahoney (1845-1926), acknowledged to be the first Black trained nurse in America, graduated from the New England Hospital for Women and Children, now the Dimock Community Health Center, in 1879. While she was one of the few early Black members of The American

**First Black Trained Nurse**



Mary Eliza Mahoney

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**First Black Trained Nurse**

Nurses Association, she helped to organize The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses in 1908.

---

**First Black Pharmacist**

Robert H. Carter of New Bedford (and great-grandfather of author/historian Robert C. Hayden) was the first Black to practice pharmacy in Massachusetts, receiving his certification from the Commonwealth in 1886. He owned two drugstores in Boston between 1895 and 1905.



Lewis Latimer



Robert Carter

Lewis Latimer (1848-1928), born the son of a fugitive slave (George Latimer) in Boston, became a significant inventor with his development of an improved process for manufacturing the electric light bulb filament. He received a U.S. patent for his filament and became a member of Thomas Edison's research and development team (the Edison Pioneers) for over 20 years.

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**Inventor of Light Bulb  
Filament**

Jan E. Matzeliger of Lynn invented a shoe lasting machine in 1888 that revolutionized the making of shoes. His invention led to the formation of the United Shoe Machinery Corporation in 1890.

---

**Revolutionized Shoemaking**

Nellie Brown Mitchell was the inventor of the phoneterion, a device designed to aid "persons whose purity of tone is impaired because they cannot keep the tongue in place while singing." Mrs. Mitchell was the wife of Charles L. Mitchell, a prominent printer and community leader in the late 19th century.

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**Woman Inventor**





Dr. Thomas W. Patrick, Sr.



Dr. Solomon C. Fuller

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### **Patrick School of Pharmacy**

Dr. Thomas W. Patrick, pharmacist, founded the Patrick School of Pharmacy in Boston in 1893. Until 1936 he operated the school, where some 5,000 Bostonians, mostly first- and second-generation Italian, Irish, and Jewish immigrants, were trained to become certified pharmacists.

---

### **Inventor of Bread Crumb Machine**

Joseph Lee of Boston received a U.S. patent in 1895 for a machine that made bread crumbs for the food industry. Several years later he received a second patent for the first machine to make bread dough.

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## **20th Century**

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### **First Black Psychiatrist**

Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller (1872-1953), acknowledged as the first Black to practice psychiatry in America, graduated from Boston University's Medical School in 1897 and practiced psychiatry in Boston and Framingham until 1937.

---

### **Leading Dentist**

Dr. W. Alexander Cox had a large dental practice among Black and white patients in Cambridge during the early 1900s. He was the founder and president of the dental section of the National Medical Association. In the late 1800s Dr. Cox was owner and publisher of the *Advocate*, the only newspaper owned and operated by an African-American in New England.

Dr. Henry Lewis of Chelsea was appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Veterinary Physicians in 1908.

## Black Veterinarian

Plymouth Hospital and Nurses' Training School, founded and operated by Dr. Cornelius Garland, a Black doctor, from 1908 to 1928, contributed to the health care needs of Blacks and to Black community development during the first quarter of the 1900s. The hospital building still stands on East Springfield Street in Boston.

## Plymouth Hospital



Operating room at Plymouth Hospital



Nursing graduates of Plymouth Hospital

---

### Pioneer Activist Doctor

Dr. Louis T. Wright (1891-1952), a Harvard Medical School graduate in 1915 and a leading 20th-century Black physician, pioneered in the struggle for adequate health care and medical facilities until his death in 1952. His first struggle was in Boston when he was denied the opportunity to attend pregnant women and deliver infants with his Harvard classmates at Boston-Lying-In Hospital. "I paid my tuition," said Wright in his petition, "and I want what the catalogue calls for, namely [a position in] obstetrics at Boston-Lying-In." Dr. Wright won his case.





Dr. Jessie G. Garnett



Dr. Louis T. Wright



Dr. William A. Hinton

Dr. William A. Hinton (1883-1959) directed the Wasserman Laboratory of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at Harvard Medical School from 1915 to 1949 and developed the famous Hinton test for syphilis, which was used to diagnose this venereal disease for over 40 years.

### **Medical Breakthrough**

Dr. Jessie G. Garnett (1897-1976) was the first Black woman dentist in Boston. A 1919 graduate of Tufts Dental School and the first Black woman to graduate from Tufts Dental, she practiced for 50 years until 1970. Dr. Garnett once recalled, "When I first started, patients came to the office and saw me. They asked for the dentist. 'I'm the dentist,' I said."

### **First Black Female Dentist**



<b>South End Physician</b>	Dr. John B. Hall, Sr., served as the secretary of the South End Medical Society (a group of white physicians) from its beginning in 1926 until 1952. During his career as a prominent South End physician, Dr. Hall held posts as medical examiner for the Massachusetts Insurance Department and with the advisory council of the Massachusetts Public Health Department in the 1930s and '40s.
<b>First Nurses at City Hospital</b>	In 1929 two African-American women, Frances Harris and Letitia Campfield, became the first Blacks to be admitted to the School of Nursing at Boston City Hospital.
<b>Bay State Medical Association</b>	African-American doctors, dentists, and pharmacists organized the Bay State Medical Association in 1930 to further their professional development and to provide charitable services to their community. The membership included more than 50 medical practitioners and was in existence until 1942.
<b>Dr. John B. Hall, Jr.</b>	Dr. John B. Hall, Jr., became the first Black doctor accepted as an intern at Boston City Hospital in 1931.
<b>Distinguished Female Dentist</b>	Dr. Mary Crutchfield Wright was the only woman to pass the Massachusetts Civil Service examination for dentists in state institutions in 1932.
<b>Renowned Chemist</b>	Dr. Henry A. Hill (1915-1979) was a distinguished chemist locally and nationally from 1942 until 1979. He was the first African-American to become Chairman of the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society and later became President of the American Chemical Society. In 1961 he established his own organic chemistry research company, Riverside Research Laboratory in Cambridge. Previously he held several management positions in organic chemistry research at major research labs in the Boston area.
<b>Medical Director</b>	In 1949 Dr. Charles D. Bonner (1917-1990) became the first Black physician appointed to the staff at Boston City Hospital. In 1968 he was appointed Medical Director of Youville Hospital in

Cambridge. In 1979 he was elected president of the Massachusetts Heart Association. Dr. Bonner gained national recognition for his methods of rehabilitating stroke victims.

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#### Medical Director

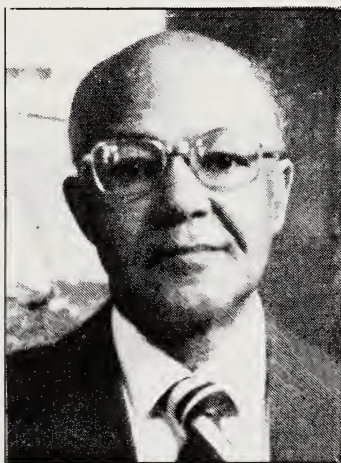
Harold B. Frye (1902-1989), a civil engineer with the Massachusetts Department of Public Works for over 40 years, was responsible for the design of many bridges throughout the state during his career. Born in Boston, he graduated in 1925 with a degree in engineering from Northeastern University and in 1926 with a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During his career he served two terms as president of the Massachusetts State Engineers and Associates. Frye was a founding member of Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in Boston in 1924. He designed the Bragga Bridge in Fall River, Massachusetts.

---

#### Engineer/Bridge Designer



Dr. Charles D. Bonner



Harold Frye

<b>Microwave Associates</b>	Microwave Associates, Inc. (now called M/A-COM) was founded in 1950 in Boston by two African-American engineers, Louis W. Roberts and Richard M. Walker, and Vess Chigas (a Greek-American). In 1956 the company offered public stock and many of Boston's African-Americans invested. Microwave Associates became a multinational company with sales over \$500 million.
<b>Harvard Medical Graduate</b>	In 1951 Dr. Mildred Jefferson became the first African-American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School.
<b>Distinguished Psychiatrist</b>	Dr. Alvin Poussaint, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, is a nationally recognized authority on the social and psychological dynamics related to African-American life and culture in this country. For more than 20 years his numerous articles on male-female relations, crime, teenage issues, substance abuse, and the Black family have appeared in leading magazines and journals. Since 1984 he has been a production consultant for the popular television program, the Bill Cosby Show.
<b>First Black Professor of Dentistry</b>	Dr. Joseph L. Henry was the first African-American professor at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine with his appointment in 1974. He created the department of oral diagnosis and oral radiology which he still heads. In 1978 Dr. Henry became the first African-American to become an Associate Dean at the Dental School.
<b>Orthopaedic Surgeon-in-Chief</b>	In 1978 when Dr. Augustus A. White II became Orthopaedic Surgeon-in-Chief at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital, which is affiliated with Harvard Medical School, he became the first African-American to serve as chairman of a clinical department in a major teaching hospital. He is the senior co-author of <i>Clinical Biomechanics of the Spine</i> , the first text of its kind on this topic.
<b>Three Firsts for Black Physician</b>	Dr. Kenneth C. Edelin was the first African-American physician to direct a major clinical department at Boston City Hospital when he was named Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology in

1978, a position he held until 1989. Also, as Chairman and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Boston University School of Medicine, he was the first to head a clinical department at that institution. In October 1989 he was elected President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, another first for an African-American.

---

**Three Firsts for  
Black Physician**

In 1979 chemical engineer James Porter (Ph.D.) founded his own firm, Energy and Environmental Engineering, Inc., in Cambridge, which became the first minority-owned firm in the nation to receive U.S. Environmental Agency laboratory contracts. Before founding his own firm, he established the National Organization for the Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

---

**Distinguished Chemical  
Engineer**

The first African-American to hold the position of Commissioner of Public Health in Massachusetts was Dr. Bailus Walker, appointed in 1984. He was followed by another African-American, Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Commissioner from 1987 to 1989, the first woman to hold this position.

---

**Commissioners of  
Public Health**

Louis Roberts became the Director of Transportation Systems Center at the U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters in Cambridge in 1985 where he served until 1989. From 1967-1970 he was Chief of the Optics and Microwave Laboratory of the Electronic Research Center for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Cambridge. Roberts holds 11 U.S. patents on electronic devices.

---

**Inventor of  
Electronic Devices**



Louis Roberts



**U.S. Secretary of Health,  
Education and Welfare**

Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, formerly president of Morehouse College of Medicine, was appointed by President George Bush in 1989 as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Dr. Sullivan graduated from Boston University's School of Medicine and spent the early years of his career as a medical researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital and at Boston City Hospital where he was a research fellow until 1971.

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# Sports

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## 20th Century

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Boxer George “Little Chocolate” Dixon (1870-1908) of Boston was the first Black to win both the featherweight and bantamweight championships.	<b>“Little Chocolate” Dixon</b>
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Marshall W. “Major” Taylor of Worcester, Massachusetts, was the greatest cyclist in the country in the 1890s and early 1900s. He was World Professional Bicycle Champion between 1908 and 1910.	<b>Greatest Cyclist</b>
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The wooden golf tee was invented by a Black Boston dentist, Dr. George Grant, who received his U.S. patent in 1899. He was also a member of the faculty at the Dental School of Harvard University.	<b>Inventor of Golf Tee</b>
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William H. Lewis, an All-American football star at Harvard, is credited with inventing the “roving center” defense strategy. He went on to a distinguished legal and political career in Boston.	<b>All-American Football Star</b>
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Sam Langford of Boston and Cambridge had by his own count 650 boxing bouts between 1902 and 1926; 250 of his fights were officially recorded. Standing just 5 feet 7 inches, and weighing 165 pounds — the size of a middleweight — Langford fought as a heavyweight and held the so-called Negro and Mexican heavyweight titles, in an era when promoters would not match a white fighter against a Black. Fighting the top Black heavyweights, he lost a narrow 15-round decision to Jack Johnson in Chelsea in 1906. White journalists called him “next to Jack Dempsey, the finest boxer to ever put on a pair of gloves.”	<b>“Finest Boxer to Wear Gloves”</b>
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# AFRICAN-AMERICAN INVENTORS

G. F. GRANT  
GOLF TEE

No 638,920

Patented Dec. 12, 1899

No Model )

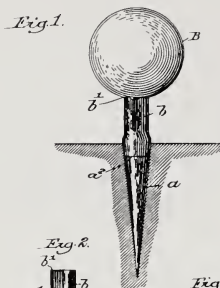


Fig. 2.

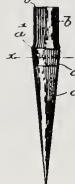


Fig. 3.



Inventor  
George F. Grant  
By *Ernest W. Smith*  
*attys.*

Patent drawing of golf tee invented  
by Dr. George Grant



Sam Langford (left), Joe Walcott  
(right). Photo taken in 1931; they  
fought in 1903.



Will "Cannonball" Jackman

Leon L. Furr, Sr., was a 3-letter man in hockey at Medford High School and captain of the Medford hockey team in 1917. Playing both center and forward positions, Furr was one of the most dazzling and competent players on the ice in New England in the early 1900s. In 1977 he was named as an Honorary Member of the Boston Bruins professional hockey team.

---

#### **Dazzling Player on Ice**

In 1919 Charles H. Jackson, a mechanic in Boston, invented a diving suit used to set a new world's record in 1920 for deep sea diving. John F. Turner, an internationally known diver, reached a depth of 360 feet while diving with Jackson's suit.

---

#### **Inventor of Diving Suit**

Edward "Ned" Gourdin (1897-1966), as a Harvard athlete, set a new world's record in the running broad jump — 25 feet, 3 inches — the first human to leap beyond 25 feet. A graduate of Cambridge Latin High and Harvard Law School (1924) he was crowned National Amateur Athletic Union Junior 100-yard dash champion (1920) and National Pentathlon champion (1921 and 1922). In 1952 he was appointed as a Special Justice of the Roxbury District Court, the third Black to serve on the state bench. In 1958 he was appointed to the Massachusetts Superior Court.

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#### **World's Record Holder**

Will "Cannonball" Jackman of Boston is a legendary baseball great of the old Colored Baseball League during the early 1900s. For seventeen years

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#### **Legendary Baseball Great**



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### **Legendary Baseball Great**

Jackman pitched the baseball like his nickname. He played with the Philadelphia Colored Giants during the 1920s and 1930s and was a stellar attraction on the semi-pro diamonds of New England. Later playing for the Boston Tigers, Jackman attracted people from all over New England to sandlot games in Cambridge, Quincy, Brockton, Lynn, and Boston (at the Carter Playground on Columbus Avenue). Only his "color" kept him out of the major leagues.

---

### **Distinguished Athletes**

Matthew Bullock, a graduate of Everett High, and John Shelburne, a Boston English graduate, both became All-American football players at Dartmouth College in the early 20th century. Bullock later returned to coach at Everett High, becoming the first African-American to serve as a head coach of a major northern white high school sports team. Shelburne became Youth Director of the Robert Gould Shaw House and Executive Director of its Breezy Meadows Camp in Holliston. Today in Roxbury the Shelburne Recreational Center is named in his honor.

---

### **Female Olympic Star**

During the early 1930s Louise Stokes of Medford was among the finest female track stars in the country. She was a member of the U.S. Olympic Team in 1932 and won the Women's National A.A.U. 50-yard dash championship in Chicago in 1933.

---

### **Leading Tennis Player**

Titus Sparrow was a leading tennis player in Boston and New England in the 1930s and 1940s. He was a tennis official of the old Boston Tennis Club and its offspring, the Roxbury Sportsmen. He was the winner of numerous trophies, including the New England Gardner Clase Bowl, awarded annually by the New England Tennis Association for exceptional contributions to the game. Sparrow Park in Boston's South End is named for this tennis giant who taught the game to Black and white youngsters for over 30 years.

---

### **Tennis Champion**

Isabel Bland of Medford was appointed Field Secretary of the American Tennis Association of New England in 1931. Mrs. Bland was a member of the Boston Tennis Club from early 1920s to early

1940s. She was the leading woman titlest in the Colored New England Amateur and Open Tournament.

---

**Tennis Champion**

Louis Montgomery was unanimously elected captain of the Brockton High School football team in December of 1935. Montgomery, who went on to lead Boston College to a berth in the Cotton Bowl in 1941, was the first Black captain of the Brockton team since Ed Mallory in 1903.

---

**Football Great**

The Bay State Golf Association was founded in 1938 by Black golfers from Medford and Boston. In these early years they played at Sagamore Springs in Lynnfield, one of the few golf courses open to Blacks. Bay State's first annual tournament was held in 1940 at Ponkapoag Golf Club in Canton. This 52-year-old association continues each summer with its annual tournaments and fund-raising activities to promote the game among young people.

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**Bay State  
Golf Association**

Eddie Dugger of Medford was National Collegiate Athletic Association high hurdles champion in 1940.

---

**High Hurdles Champ**



Chuck Cooper

**First Black Celtics Star**

Chuck Cooper was the first Black player on the Boston Celtics basketball team, appearing with them in the 1940s.

**Boston Red Sox Scout**

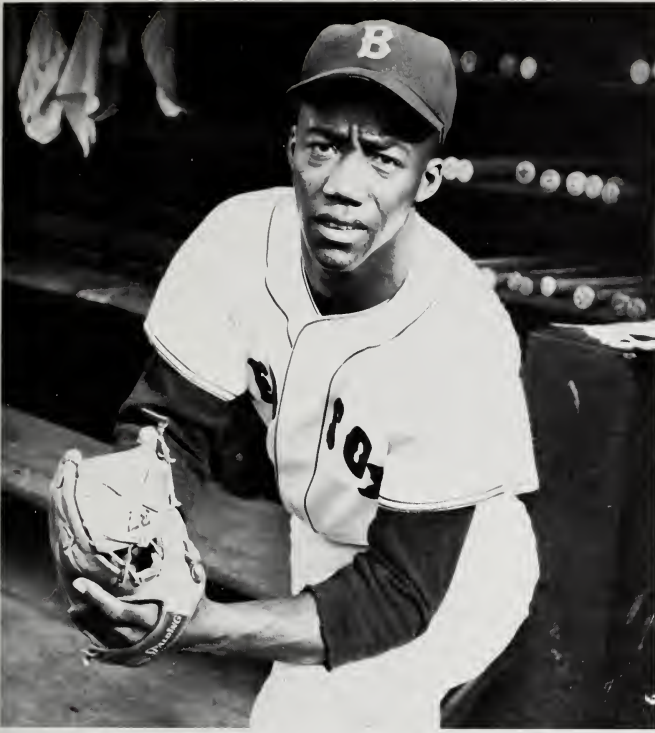
Ralph “Stodie” Ward, formerly of Cambridge and a star third baseman for the old Boston Tigers, volunteered in the 1950s to work and scout for the Boston Red Sox to help them find Black players.

**Record-Setting  
Relay Team**

In 1953 a one-mile relay team of Bobby Murphy, Larry Smith, George Hubbard, and Charlie Jenkins of Rindge Technical High in Cambridge set a national record of 3 minutes, 20.9 seconds, which stood unbeaten nationally for 10 years and for 25 years as a state record.



National Schoolboy Record holders,  
Cambridge Rindge & Technical High,  
1953



K. C. Jones was a major figure in Boston's professional basketball history as both a player and a coach. As a guard who made defensive play his hallmark with the Boston Celtics from 1958 to 1967, he had a career total of 2,904 assists and averaged 7.4 points per game. During his tenure as coach of the famed Boston Celtics from 1983 to 1988, he led the team to two national championships in 1983-84 and 1986-87.

---

**Distinguished Player/Coach  
of Boston Celtics**

Elijah "Pumpsie" Green was the first Black baseball player for the Boston Red Sox, playing in the infield from 1959-1962.

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**First Black  
Red Sox Player**

John Thomas of Cambridge, while an undergraduate at Boston University, was the first high jumper to clear the seven-foot height. In January 1959 at the Milrose Gardens in Madison Square Garden he set a world record of 7 feet and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. He went on to win a bronze medal for the high jump in the 1960 Olympic Games and a silver medal in 1964.

---

**Champion High Jumper**





John Thomas

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### **Sportsman's Tennis Club**

Since 1961 Sportsman's Tennis Club, through the vision and guidance of the club's founder, James A. Smith, has achieved local, regional and national fame by developing and promoting junior tennis programs that have elevated young Black players to noteworthy competitive levels of tennis playing in the U.S. Tennis and American Tennis Association programs.

---

### **Legendary Celtic**

Bill Russell was both player and coach of the legendary Boston Celtics basketball team for three seasons, from 1966 through 1969. In two of these seasons (1967-68 and 1968-69) he led the Celtics to the National Basketball Association national championship. As a Celtic from 1956 to 1969, he averaged 15.1 points per game in 963 regular season games and was outstanding as a defensive center.

James A. Smith, founder of  
Sportsman's Tennis Club



Bill Russell



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**Marvelous Marvin Hagler**

Boxer Marvelous Marvin Hagler of Brockton won the World Middleweight Championship Title in September 1980. Previously, in a fighting career that started in 1973, he had compiled a 49-2-2 record. He successfully defended the middleweight title twelve times before losing to Sugar Ray Leonard in 1987.

---

**Memories of Great Black Athletes**

*Fifty Sports Years Along Memory Lane: Afro-American Sports History — Hometown, Local and National* by Mabray "Doc" Kountze of West Medford was published in 1981. Kountze's book chronicles hundreds of sports figures, teams, and events in greater Boston's African-American history.



Elaine Weddington

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Peter C. B. Bynoe, a native of Boston, and Bertram Lee, a Boston businessman, became the first African-Americans to own a major professional sports franchise when they purchased the Denver Nuggets of the National Basketball Association in 1989.

#### **First Owners of Pro Team**

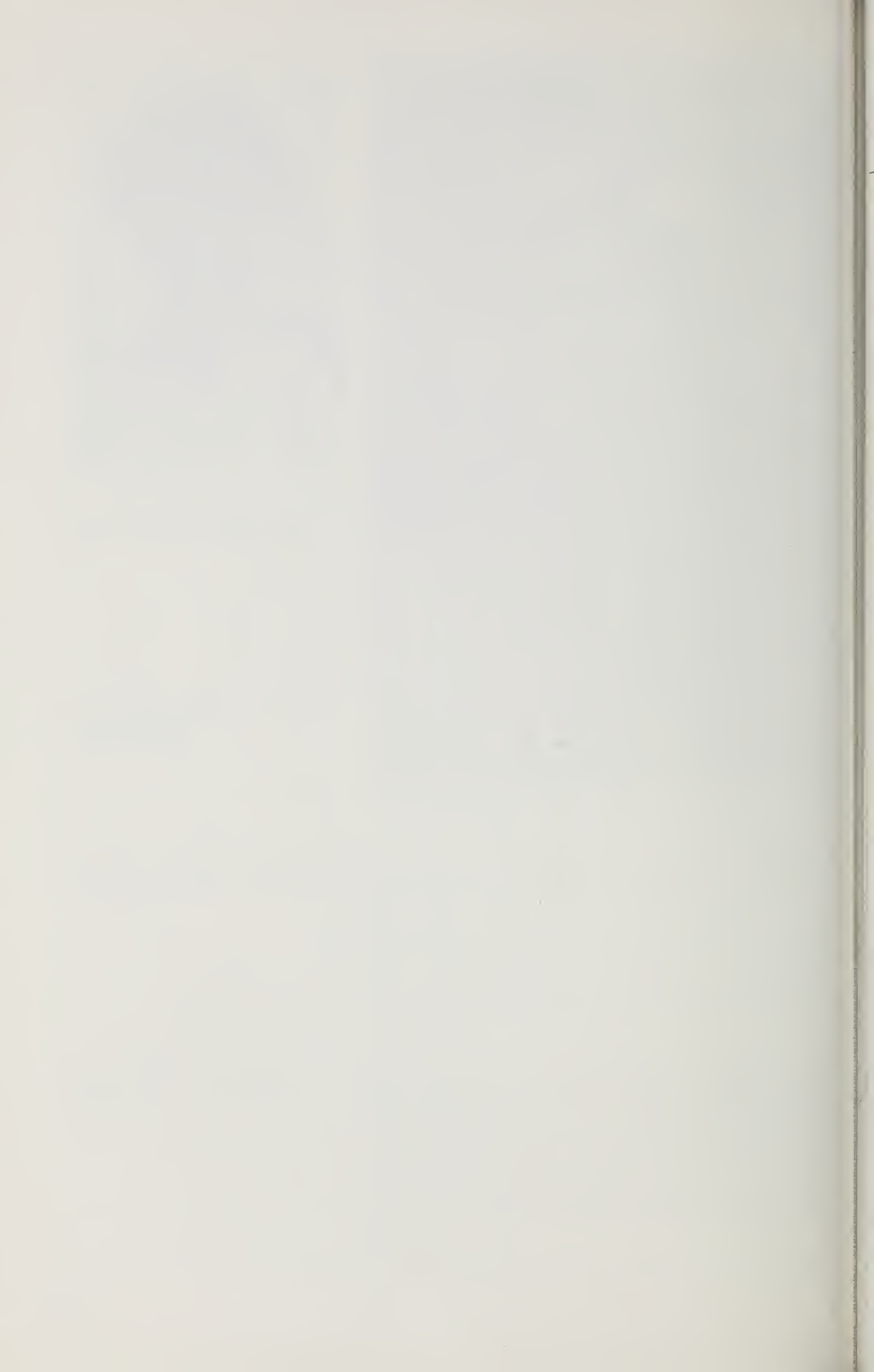
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In January 1990 Attorney Elaine Weddington was appointed assistant general manager for the Boston Red Sox baseball team, a first in the nation for an African-American woman, but not a first for Weddington. In August 1988 she was also appointed associate counsel for the team.

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#### **Red Sox Lawyer and Manager**





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## Epilogue

On June 23, 1990 Winnie and Nelson Mandela came to Boston. Nelson had recently been released from a South African prison after serving 27 years for his activism against apartheid. With their visit the Mandelas added a bright, inspiring chapter to Boston's history.

The Mandelas stand as modern-day heroes who illustrate poignantly the history of all Black people who struggle to make great contributions against tremendous odds in a world where they themselves are not truly free.

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**Introducing**

Robert C. Hayden, *Author*

and Joyce Ferriabough, *Coordinator*





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## Robert C. Hayden

Educator, historian, and author, Hayden is known nationally for his writing, lecturing, and teaching on the history of African-Americans. He is the author of *Seven Black American Scientists* (1970), *Eight Black American Inventors* (1972, 1989), *Nine Black American Doctors*, with co-author Jacqueline Harris (1976), and *Black in America: Episodes in U.S. History* (1969). He was a contributor to *Dictionary of American Negro Biography* (1982). From 1974-1983 his weekly column, "Boston's Black History," appeared in the *Bay State Banner* in Boston. In 1986 he wrote *A Guide to the TV Series Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years 1954 to 1965*.

Hayden's first biography, *Singing for All People: Roland Hayes*, was published in 1989, written especially for young people. His other books include *Faith, Culture and Leadership: A History of the Black Church in Boston*; *Boston's NAACP History: 1910 to 1982*; and *The African Meeting House in Boston: A Celebration of History*.

A member of the National Executive Committee of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, and president of the Boston branch of the Association, Robert Hayden is also a lecturer in the Department of African-American Studies at Northeastern University, in the Black Studies Program at Boston College, and holds adjunct faculty positions at Bentley College and Curry College.

Robert C. Hayden is the executive director of the Massachusetts Pre-Engineering Program. From 1980-1982 he was employed by the Boston Public Schools where he served in several positions — special assistant and executive assistant to the superintendent and director of project development.

From 1980-1982 Hayden was director of the Secondary Technical Education Project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1970-1973 he served as executive director of the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) in Boston and then worked in educational research and development at the Educational Development Center in Newton, Massachusetts.



During the early years of his career Hayden was a science teacher, a news writer for *Current Science*, and a science editor in the educational division of Xerox Corporation.

He earned his B.A. in 1959 and Master's degree in 1961 from Boston University and has completed two postgraduate fellowships — one at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education (1965-1966), the other at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1976-1977).

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## Joyce Ferriabough

Joyce Ferriabough introduced the concept for this book and coordinated the project which led to its publication. She is a media and political strategist and public relations specialist with a diverse background in television production, marketing, event planning, research and analysis, program and project development and implementation, fund raising, and community organizing.

She has worked as a producer/writer for major market television in California and Boston. In 1983 Ferriabough worked with Councillor Bruce Bolling to research, write, and promote his linkage legislation that ties downtown development to community development. She has used her skills as a media and political strategist in a number of local, state, and national campaigns, among them: City Councillor Bruce Bolling's 1983 re-election; Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign in 1984; and City Councillor Charles Yancey's run for state auditor in 1986, marking the first time an African-American representing the Democratic Party won a place on the statewide ballot.

In the areas of public relations and promotion, Joyce Ferriabough has been involved in a number of high-profile activities, among them: the NAACP's Diamond Anniversary; the 25th Anniversary of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD); and the city of Boston's annual celebrations of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

In 1988 Ferriabough was appointed by Mayor Raymond Flynn to serve as director of the city's celebration of 350 Years of Black Presence in Boston, working with Rosemarie Sansone, director of the city's Office of Business and Cultural Development. This major project led to Ferriabough's idea for this book, *African-Americans in Boston: More Than 350 Years*. During the yearlong celebration which highlighted African-American achievements, she also produced a number of events including a popular "Art of Jazz" exhibit at City Hall, which brought together two of the nation's oldest African-American museums, Boston's African Meeting House





and Chicago's DuSable Museum. During the celebration Ferriabough also designed a rap and mural program in four city parks, designed to teach children the history of African-American achievements in Boston.

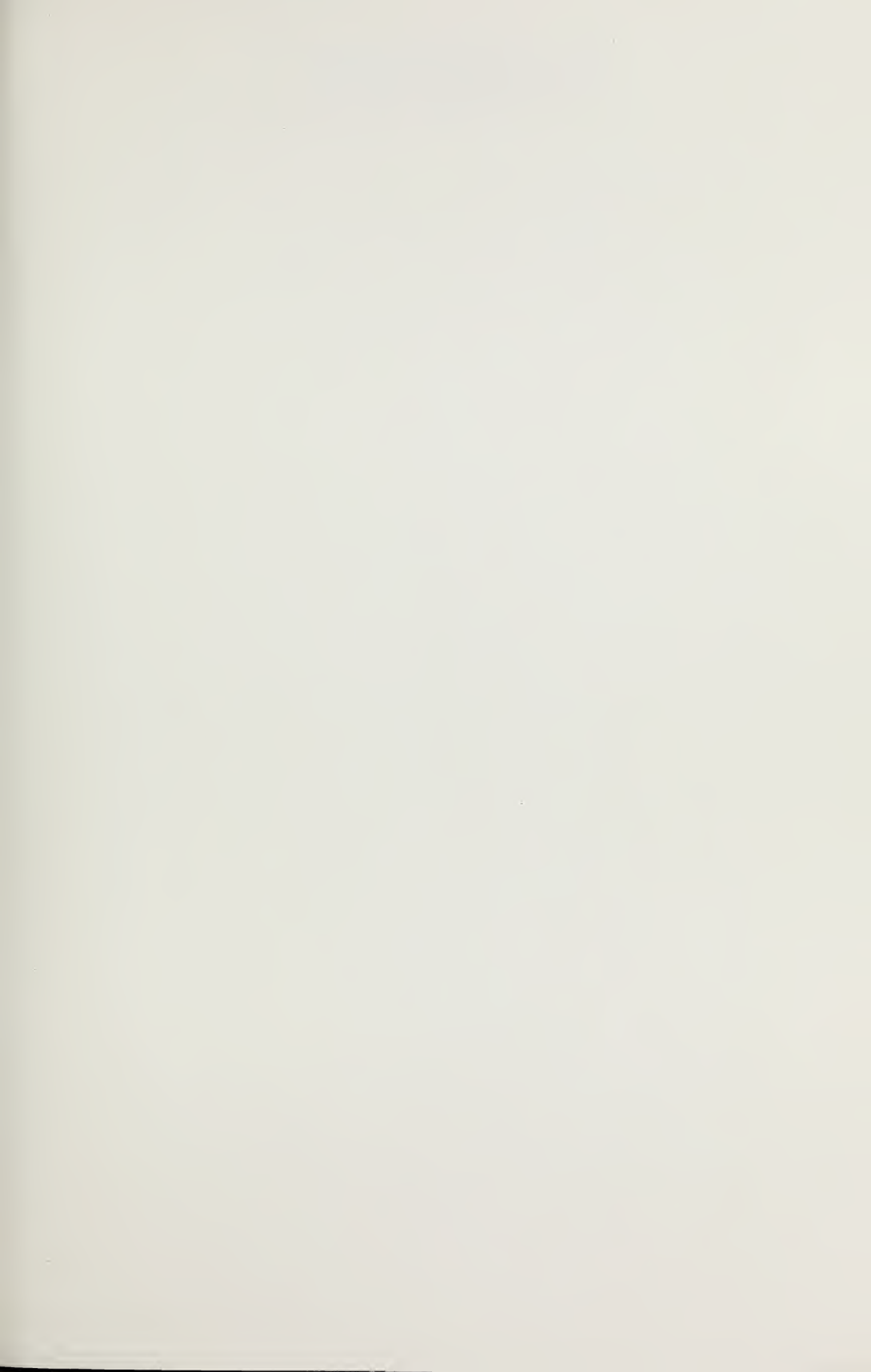
In 1989 she worked in partnership with Susan Kooperstein to design media materials, both video and print, in nine different languages, and a public relations campaign to promote the Boston School Department's new "school choice" program. She volunteers her time working with young people at Boston's Chez Vous Roller Rink and each year produces their Black Youth Pride March and job fairs.

Ferriabough is frequently quoted in the press for her views on political trends and news developments, especially issues affecting the African-American community. She was cited as

a role model in the *Boston Herald's* tribute to 350 Years of Black Presence, an educational tool for the Boston schools. She is listed in the annual publication of *100 Most Influential Blacks in Boston*. In 1991 she was elected president of the Black Political Task Force, the oldest political action group in Massachusetts. With this election, Ferriabough became only the second woman to hold that position in the organization's 12-year history.

Joyce Ferriabough grew up in the Roxbury, Dorchester, South End, and Mattapan sections of Boston. She was a National Honor Society graduate of the Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Dorchester and attended Boston State Teachers College and the University of California at Berkeley where she majored in journalism and political science.







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